

Iran claims victory over 'sexual rights'

BEIJING (R) — Iran claimed victory on Monday in the defeat of a European bid to enshrine "sexual rights" at the United Nations world conference on women, saying European Union (EU) delegates were going home empty-handed.

After a weekend of heated closed-door debate over women's health issues, negotiators from dozens of countries reached consensus late on Sunday on a compromise that deletes the European-sponsored phrase from the conference's draft platform for action.

"It was Iran that caused the deletion of the phrase 'sexual rights' from the document and the European Union was very much against this," said Iran's Vice President for Women's Affairs Shahla Habibi, who headed the Islamic republic's conference delegation.

"They (the European Union) are going home empty-handed because of this deletion," she said in an interview.

Ms. Habibi said Iran and several other countries had no choice but to oppose the phrase because it was not clearly defined and because it threatened Iran's traditional concept of family, a man and a woman bound in marriage.

Critics of the European-rights drive, who included the Vatican, has attacked it for seeking to legitimise or legalise what they regard as immoral family unions, including those comprising homosexual partners.

The phrase "sexual rights" could have been interpreted to include non-traditional partnerships, such as homosexual partnerships. It was replaced by the words "human rights".

Iran also hoped to win another battle over one of the most hotly disputed phrases in the document, which will chart a course for women in the next decade, replacing the word "equality" with "equity".

Iran has lobbied hard against the use of "equality" in the conference document, saying it was relative and open to interpretation. It favoured the term "equity" in the belief that under Islam the rights of men and women are "complementary" rather than equal.

Iran also opposes universal norms of human rights, saying such a concept undermines Islamic values because it is too broad to embrace what Ms. Habibi called "all the customs and all the diversity in the world."

"These terms such as equality have not created miracles because of their limitations," she said. "If they are not completed with such words as equity, they will never create miracles."

Despite the sexual-rights compromise, Ms. Habibi said Iran still would append formal reservations to the platform for action, saying even the compromise language was unacceptable.

Ms. Habibi said her delegation had come to hear the views of others and to defend its own and would express reservations about any language in the document that Iran felt was "against our religion or beliefs."

She assailed a coalition of Iranian resistance groups that marched outside her hotel on Monday to denounce what they said was Tehran's brutality, hostility and discrimination towards women.

"These of course are our enemies," Ms. Habibi said. "Many times more women inside Iran would deny what they are saying about us."

She said, "It is not like that in Iran. Why should we accept the word of a small group? They are not going to say anything nice about us."

Exiled resistance groups have used the women's conference in a major publicity drive against Tehran, alleging Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution, which initially attracted women's support, had turned viciously against their sex.

"Women can never be empowered in a country where the stoning of women for adultery is allowed," said resistance activist Mahj Stokas, a one-time Khomeini supporter who later fled to Britain.

Chinese security guards cordoned off the demonstration but did not interfere. Many resistance groups support the anti-fundamentalist Iranian parliament-in-exile headed by Maryam Rajavi, a woman who advocates replacing the Islamic theocracy with a liberal democracy.



GONZALEZ ARRIVES: Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who arrived here late Monday on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other Jordanian leaders on Jordanian-Spanish relations (see page one), is received upon arrival by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (photo above) and senior officials (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Jordanian business team begins 6-day Palestinian visit tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Invited by the Jerusalem-based Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture a joint delegation of the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Amman Chamber of Commerce is due to visit the Palestinian territories on a six-day tour beginning Wednesday.

The delegation will be jointly led by Khalidoun Abu Hassan, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry, and Haidar Murad, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by some of the board members.

The formation of the joint delegation, according to Mr. Abu Hassan, emphasises the Jordanian resolve to promote and consolidate joint institutional work, acting on equal footing to achieve the common objective of both chambers.

The delegation will visit Jerusalem, and Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Gaza, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho and hold meetings with the president and board of directors on all issues of mutual concern and means to further enhance and strengthen trade and endeavour to remove all barriers against the smooth movement of all private sector commodities

and services between the two sides of the River Jordan. Mr. Abu Hassan said the delegation will also tour a number of Palestinian manufacturing establishments to gain precise knowledge of Palestinian products' quality and explore possibilities of complementarities.

"We will emphasise the need to activate all signed Jordan-Palestinian agreements, whether formally concluded between the Jordan government and the Palestinian National Authority or between the Amman chambers of commerce and industry and the Palestinian counterparts." The talks in the Palestinian territories will cover



Khalidoun Abu Hassan



Haidar Murad

Murayama due in Mideast today

DUBAI (R) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will tour the Middle East this week to underline Tokyo's intention to play a bigger role in the Arab-Israeli peace process, Japan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia said on Monday.

Mr. Murayama is due to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday in what will be the first visit by a Japanese prime minister to the Middle East since the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord. He will go on to Egypt, Syria, Israel, the Gaza Strip and Jordan.

"He will demonstrate to the world that Japan is trying to get involved with the peace process. Japan has been increasing its political role in this area," Ambassador Minoru Tamba told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh.

"Murayama wants to encourage the Middle East peace process," he said. "The second purpose of the visit is to upgrade our bilateral relations."

Mr. Murayama's tour is also the first time a Japanese prime minister visits the region since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Japan sent mine-sweepers



Tomiichi Murayama

to the region after a U.S.-led coalition ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1991, but Japanese troops did not fight in the Gulf war.

Mr. Murayama will hold talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and King Hussein, Mr. Tamba said.

A delegation of 60 government officials will accompany him.

Last year Japan pledged \$200 million worth of aid to

support self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Tokyo has also decided to dispatch civil defence forces to United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Golan Heights, a sticking point in Israel-Syria peace negotiations.

Japanese newspapers reported last month that Mr. Murayama was likely to make announcements on Japan's dispatch of monitors for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and on investment in a planned Middle East development bank.

Israel and the PLO have asked Japan to send the monitors but Mr. Tamba said the issue was still undecided.

He said Mr. Murayama would also seek to boost Japan-Saudi trade and promote joint ventures.

Japan imports one million barrels per day (bpd) of oil from Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer. The supply meets 22 per cent of Japan's oil consumption.

Bilateral trade has expanded in the past five years, with \$8.4 billion in Saudi oil and non-oil exports to Japan in 1994. Japan exported \$3.2 billion worth of goods to Saudi Arabia.

'Iraq holds 1,000 Egyptians'

CAIRO (AFP) — At least 1,000 Egyptians are being held in two Iraqi prisons and several have died from being tortured, according to Egyptian prisoners recently released by Baghdad.

The government daily Al-Ahram on Monday cited several of them, who indicated that "635 Egyptians are being held in Abu Gharib prison, where they are serving two to 10-year prison terms after being summarily judged."

"They are suffering from a lack of food and health care. Thirty-five Egyptians have been struck by tuberculosis and 20 of them have died," said Sami Ragab, a recently freed prisoner.

Another former prisoner, Mossad Mohammad Ragab, said there were "hundreds of Egyptian prisoners" in the Al-Fudayia jail in Baghdad.

"They were taken to prison after indiscriminate street raids" and some of them were released after two to three months, he said.

He added Iraqi officials had confiscated their belongings and then made them sign a statement that they had received all their legal rights before being repatriated.

Sami Ragab said he was sentenced to the maximum 10 years in prison for illegally selling food.

"The judge did not listen to my defence and Iraqi authorities seized all the money I had made over the years — \$650,000," he said.

Mortada Al-Sayed Haddad, another former prisoner, said the Egyptians were "tortured in prison to force them to admit to the charges against them."

According to Al-Ahram, all the prisoners accused two officials at Al-Fudayia prison. Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Al-Samdaai and Captain Gamal Abu Mootaz — of mistreating Egyptians.

The Egyptian consulate in Aqaba said Egyptian officials have paid the transportation costs of 3,000 Egyptians who have left Iraq over the last few months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel says W. Bank shooting was accident

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said Sunday a soldier wounded in the occupied West Bank apparently shot himself by accident. Initial reports had quoted Israeli security sources as saying unidentified gunmen in a car bearing licence plates of occupied West Bank Palestinians had apparently fired at the Israeli, who was guarding a Jewish settlement. "An Israeli soldier was lightly wounded tonight from shooting at the Roi settlement in the Jordan Valley," a military source said. "Apparently his gun misfired. The incident occurred when the soldier was guarding the settlement gate. The army is checking the report." Israeli Radio said the army suspected the lightly wounded soldier had fabricated the story of gunmen in a car to cover up his mishap. The shooting happened at the Roi settlement, 28 kilometres north of Jericho.

Kurdish guerrillas storm village, kill 9

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Kurdish rebels burned homes and shot villagers in one of the largest raids in months, killing nine residents including a Muslim cleric and two children, officials said Saturday. Five guerrillas were reportedly killed by pursuing soldiers. The attack, which also left 18 villagers injured, is part of stepped up pressure by Kurdish rebels on villages that refuse to help them or aid the security forces. Previously, rebels refrained from targeting villages in an attempt to gain popularity among the local people in southeastern Turkey. The regional governor's office said the guerrillas set fire to eight houses in Bulakbasi in the Sinak province before escaping into the mountains. The dead included the village imam, two children and two women. Kurdish rebels have been fighting for autonomy in southeast Turkey since 1984. More than 16,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Gulf Air flight makes emergency landing

ABU DHABI (AP) — A Gulf Air jetliner made an emergency landing here after a false fire alarm, an airline official said Sunday. Nobody was hurt. The Airbus A-320 landed Saturday at Abu Dhabi international airport after an alarm showed smoke in a toilet and in the cargo hold while it was flying over the United Arab Emirates. But after the landing, engineers found no trace of smoke or fire, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Flight GF174 had taken off from Doha, Qatar with 24 passengers and was heading for the Omani capital Muscat. Most of the passengers resumed their trip aboard another Muscat-bound Gulf Air flight.

Iraqi, U.S. envoys clash

JAKARTA (AFP) — Iraq's ambassador to Indonesia on Monday got involved in a slanging match with Washington's ambassador to the United Nations after accusing the United States of dominating the world body and destroying Iraq. The row flared during questions following a speech by U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright to academics, foreign ambassadors and journalists at the Department of Foreign Affairs here. "I think she would rather be a dominator than a partner at the U.N.," Iraqi Ambassador Al-Zubaidi told the audience. "The behaviour of the United States at the U.N. since the early 1980s has been one of dominance, not partnership," he said. Mr. Zubaidi said children and women were dying in Iraq from lack of medical supplies. "The people of Iraq know you very well, but they know you through the destruction that you have been causing them," he said to applause and cheers from some in the room.

No word on sale of seized Iraqi diesel

NICOSIA (R) — The United Nations compensation committee has not received any revenue from the sale of Iraqi diesel oil in ships arrested by allied naval forces in the Gulf, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) newsletter said Monday.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee ruled last November that ships carrying contraband Iraqi oil which are arrested by allied naval patrols in the Gulf should be sold and proceeds paid into a U.N. escrow account.

This escrow account is used to cover claims against Baghdad following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and to meet the cost of U.N. operations in Iraq.

"No funds resulting from such sales have been deposited in the escrow account used by the U.N. compensation commission to pay claims against Iraq," MEES reported.

Iraq has been prohibited from exporting oil since its

invasion of Kuwait, other than some 70,000 barrels per day which is sent to Jordan by road tankers.

Allied naval forces regularly patrol the Gulf to ensure that Iraqi oil and other goods do not escape the trade sanctions net.

The U.S. Navy has diverted 14 vessels violating the sanctions, since October 1994 — nine carried oil and five dates.

St. Vincent-flagged Fair Sky vessel was arrested last month by the U.S. Navy on suspicion that it was carrying 3,500 tonnes of Iraqi diesel.

MEES reported that the diesel exports were done through companies owned by Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

Experts meet in Hurghada today to review R&D in Western Asia

HURGHADA (ESCWA Information Office) — A three-day expert group meeting to discuss means of revitalising research and development activities in the Western Asia region begins today in Hurghada, Egypt. Co-organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), in cooperation with Egypt's Ministry of State for Scientific Research, the meeting seeks to evaluate the past role of research and development institutions and to discuss their future role.

The substantial changes and developments taking place in the world today have been caused mainly by a scientific and technological revolution. In addition, international political and economic relations have witnessed massive changes, the main result of which has been increased political and economic openness. In order for national corporations to keep their competitive edge and to survive in national and international markets, it has become necessary for them to keep abreast of technological developments and to modernise their products and their production methods. The experiences of various newly industrialised nations have proven that the only way to achieve these goals is through the invigoration of local scientific and technological capabilities and the augmentation of centres' participation in production and development activities.

In addition to reviewing and evaluating the activities implemented by research and development centres, the expert group meeting will discuss the factors that have aided the centres in achieving their goals and overcoming obstacles. The meeting will also attempt to define the principal features of administrative, organisational, and technical change that must take place within research and development centres in order for them to achieve the qualitative changes that

would enable them to shoulder their new responsibilities.

Participating in the meeting are various national research and development institutions that have also assisted in preparing for the meeting. These include the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt, the National Research Centre in Egypt, the Higher Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in Syria, the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan, the Higher Council for Science and Technology in Jordan, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research, the Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman, the Centre for Scientific and Applied Research at Qatar University, and the Centre of Science and Technology at Sana University in Yemen. In addition, a number of the most prominent experts in the fields of science and technology inside and outside the ESCWA region are participating in the meeting.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:30 Captain Planet
14:35 M.A.N.T.I.S.
14:40 Road to Avonlea
14:45 Families
17:30 Children's Programme — Rahaa
17:35 Montagne
17:40 Varieties — Taratara
17:45 News in French
17:50 Fun For Ever
17:55 News Headlines
18:00 You Bet Your Life
20:00 Piglet Files
20:05 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Doc — Women of the World
21:30 The Detectives
22:00 News in English
22:25 Trade Winds
22:30 The New York Undercover
23:30 Grace Under Fire
00:30 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES

04:54 Fajr
06:12 Sunrise/Duha
12:25 Dhuhr
16:04 Asr
18:52 Maghrib
20:10 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
American Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Community Tel. 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot and dry weather conditions will continue to prevail for the next 48 hours with temperatures six degrees centigrade above average and winds southeasterly to south-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 21/37
Aqaba 26/40
Dahab 19/40
Jordan Valley 24/40

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 37, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasah 819220
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736111
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Arif Asbah 602907
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 778355
Nairoudh pharmacy 626772
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shemsani pharmacy 637660
Nairoudh pharmacy 626772
Najid pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasah 819220
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736111
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Arif Asbah 602907
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 778355
Nairoudh pharmacy 626772
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shemsani pharmacy 637660
Nairoudh pharmacy 626772
Najid pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:

Dr. Fawaz Hamadallah 903644
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 77312
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafias, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marat 89161/175
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 607125
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999090
Princess Basma Hospital (02)235555
Green Catholic Hospital (02)272275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:15 Beirut (RJ)
16:35 Amman (RJ)
16:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
18:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)
18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:30 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09:45 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (CF)
14:00 Munich (YP)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:20 Rome (AZ)
21:00 Aden (DY)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
22:20 Amsterdam (KL)
00:25 Bucharest (RO)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Vienna (SD)
14:20 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:25 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
22:00 Aden (DY)
06:25 Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 130/100
Carrot 420/300
Cauliflower 180/100
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 260/200
Eggplant 340/240
Figs 320/220
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 700/600
Guava 700/600
Lemon 700/600
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 380/280
Molukhia 130/80
Okra 230/180
Onion (dry) 820/700
Onion (fresh) 240/140
Orange 100/800
Peas 180/100
Pepper (hot) 220/180
Pepper (sweet) 240/140
Pomegranate 220/120
Potato 230/220
String Beans 620/500
Sweet Melon 360/260
Tomato 100/50
Water Melon 150/100

Princess Basma calls for promoting capabilities of youth worldwide

BEIJING (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday called for promoting the creative capabilities of world youth in educational, health and other sectors because they represent the future of mankind.

Addressing a workshop dealing with the role of youth in development held on the sidelines of the U.N. World Conference on Women, the Princess said youth must be helped to become self-dependent, creative and contributing to the development process within their own communities.

She said they should also be able to develop their own culture, enhance their national identity and be accepted by the other sectors as essential partners in socio-economic development.

The Princess earlier met with the vice president of the Chinese Peoples Council and discussed with her cooperation between Jordan and China on women's issues.

Princess Basma outlined to the council vice president the achievements and role



Princess Basma

in society of Jordanian women.

Also on the sidelines of the conference a coordinating committee for Arab countries participating in the conference held a meeting under the chairmanship of Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri to review a draft for an international working plan on promoting world women's status which is being considered by the conference delegations.

The minister said after the

meeting that the committee stressed the need for seeking financial aid from wealthy nations to help finance projects benefiting women in the developing countries.

The heads of Arab delegations to the conference are due to hold a meeting Tuesday to determine the Arab countries' stand vis-a-vis press statements in China to the effect that Islam is the only religion which discriminates between and discriminates against women.

UNRWA workers stage sit-in at headquarters

Protestors say this is first of many actions against agency 'unfairness'

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About 50 people gathered Monday in front of UNRWA headquarters in protest against the dismissal of the dean of the Educational Sciences Faculty, Izzeddin Manasrah.

The sit-in was agreed to by executive committee representatives Saturday, to reject what they called UNRWA's "repressive decision" to terminate Dr. Manasrah's services and appoint a new dean shortly after the dismissal.

Executive committee representatives, student council members, refugee camp representatives and other supporters participated in the one-hour sit-in. This action was the first of a series of measures UNRWA workers plan to take in protest against the agency's failure to respond to their demands, one protester told the Jordan Times.

A cluster of demonstrators stood next to a colour-splattered banner that read "Dr. Manasrah's dismissal is unfair...we know the secret...No...No...Why?..."

One protester contended that the dean's dismissal was a political issue, and that the actual decision to fire him was taken five months ago.

"UNRWA waited until he made a mistake to announce his dismissal," he said.

Protesters argued that punitive actions such as terminating one's services are usually taken against those who steal or misuse their post.

"Dr. Manasrah is well respected among everybody who knows him. He was only trying to help Palestinian refugees without harming UNRWA," one protester said.

Executive committee representatives were further displeased with the agency's assignment of a new dean two days after terminating Dr. Manasrah's services.

They said that a lengthy procedure is required before appointing a new dean.

"And that usually takes months," they added.

UNRWA administration sources declined to meet with journalists Monday.

Dr. Manasrah was dismissed last week for criticising the agency's decision to close down the faculty

and their right to reject unjust solutions for their problem," the statement added.

The Jordanian opposition parties expressed their "deep" worries over the dean's dismissal and said in a statement made available to the Jordan Times that they urged the agency to reinstate Dr. Manasrah.

They saw the dean's dismissal as a violation of human rights that guarantee the freedom of expression.

"Such an act does not come out of an agency related to the United Nations," the political parties' statement said.

The parties called on the local, Arab and international societies to intervene to help bring back Dr. Manasrah.

The Arab Association for Comparative Literature at Annaba University in Algiers also rejected the decision to dismiss Dr. Manasrah who, it said, contributed to the educational and cultural fields in their country.

"We vehemently condemn UNRWA's inhuman decision to fire the dean...This harms the agency's reputation," it said in a statement

sent to the Jordan Times.

UNRWA workers have postponed a strike that was originally scheduled for Sept. 4, pending talks with the agency's Commissioner General, Ilter Turkmen who will arrive here Sept. 15.

The planned strike was to press demands for better health, education and social services as well as improved terms for end of service compensations and salary increases compatible with the rising cost of living.

Meanwhile, in a statement made available to the Jordan Times, members of UNRWA executive committees, refugee camp representatives and Jordanian writers called on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to come to an understanding with Mr. Turkmen to reconsider his decision to dismiss Dr. Manasrah, and urge him to repeal some rules that are incompatible with human rights and thus freedom of expression.

Netherlands to open embassy

British parliamentarians here for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Dutch parliamentary delegation announced here Monday that the Netherlands will open an embassy in Amman early next year.

The delegation made the announcement at a meeting with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The visiting team, representing the Dutch parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, discussed with Mr. Kabariti Jordanian-Dutch relations and developments in the Middle East peace process.

Also Monday, the Dutch deputies, currently on a tour of the Middle East, including Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas, was received by Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House Saad Hayel Srour and members of Parliament's foreign affairs committees.

P. Bukman, chairman of the Dutch parliamentary committee said his delegation is touring the area to

learn about developments in the peace process. Mr. Bukman underlined the importance of the Middle East region to Europe.

The meeting was attended by senators Habib Majali, Marwan Hmoud, Abdul Aziz Khayyat, Jamal Nasser, Kamel Abu Jaber, Saeed Tal, Qasseem Obeidat, Ahmad Akaileh, Abdullah Salah and Amer Khamash.

At the meeting with House Speaker Srour, the speakers talked about the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held in Amman in October and said Jordan was looking forward to the active participation of friendly states at the summit.

Also Monday, a visiting British delegation from the House of Commons met with Messrs. Lawzi and Srour and members of the foreign affairs committees. Talks at the meetings dealt with bilateral ties, the Middle East peace process and the coming MENA summit.

The delegation includes

three members of Britain's Conservative Party, Richard Alexander, Warren Hawley, and the Rt Honourable Sir Peter Lloyd; three members of the Labour Party, Paul Murphy, who is the shadow Foreign Office spokesperson, Neil Gerrard and Malcolm Wicks; and two Liberal Democrats, Charles Kennedy and Lord Redesdale.

Their tour is organised by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU).

Accompanying the delegation is CAABU representative Maria Holt.

The group is in Amman at the invitation of CAABU and hopes to meet with His Majesty King Hussein and is scheduled to meet His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday. On the group's itinerary are meetings with senior government officials and visits to some of the refugee camps in the country.

'Physiotherapy faculty is an urgent need'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Majda Raad, the chairperson of Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, on Monday stressed the need for establishing a university faculty of physiotherapy offering bachelor's degrees.

At a meeting with Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud along with women offering care to the handicapped, Princess Majda said the need to open such a faculty at one of the government universities has become pressing since there are more than 8,000 registered handicapped persons needing treatment.

The Princess said it was proven that persons holding two-year diplomas are not qualified to offer the needed treatment to the physically handicapped, which highlights the need for having such a faculty offering bachelor's degrees.

She said physiotherapy

has become a profession requiring persons holding a minimum of a bachelor's degree to be able to perform their duties.

She said holders of such degrees can be of help to doctors operating on limbs and can serve those injured in car accidents, poisoning cases and fires.

In addition, she said, they can serve the tourism sector, especially tourists seeking medical treatment in Jordan.

Dr. Saoud welcomed the idea and said the labour market in Jordan does not currently require many graduates with academic specialisations in the humanities.

He said it was urgent to meet the society's basic needs and start new majors at Jordanian universities.

The minister said the issue of opening a physiotherapy faculty will be discussed by the council of higher education which has the final say on the issue.

Court to review Zarga rape, murder case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the second time, the Court of Cassation will review the case of Shelly Mahmoud Shelly, 47, who was sentenced to death on May 7 by the Criminal Court for raping and murdering a Zarga camp girl last March.

The Court of Cassation protested the ruling of the Criminal Court which sentenced Mr. Shelly to death for both crimes. Mr. Shelly's victim was Sammar Ghoussein, a 10-year-old schoolgirl.

"It is just a technical matter," a judicial source told the Jordan Times Monday.

"The court should have handed Mr. Shelly two sentences of execution. One for murder, and one for raping and sodomising a girl under 15," the source added.

Mr. Shelly, a service driver in Zarga, lured Sammar into a wooden area in Yajouz on the afternoon of Feb. 23, and raped her, seven days

before the end of the month of Ramadan, according to court documents.

Mr. Shelly said he placed the girl's body in the trunk of his car, drove towards the Tabarbour area and threw the victim in a brush area.

The child's body was found the following day by a shepherd, after her family notified police of her disappearance.

The accused, who is married to two women and has two children ages 7 and 8, told the authorities that he went back to Zarga and bought some groceries, went home and ate breakfast with his family, then changed his clothes and went back to work.

An eyewitness, Fatmeh, a schoolmate of Sammar's, told police she last saw Sammar riding in a blue service car (the same colour as the accused's vehicle) and waving good-bye and smiling.

The witness told the court that she asked Sammar to get out, but she refused. Hours later, Fatmeh went

and told Sammar's family, what she had seen after she learned that they were looking for their daughter.

A court-appointed lawyer who represented Mr. Shelly in the case told the Jordan Times that recent efforts by the accused's family to reach a settlement with Sammar's family had failed.

"We tried to settle with the victim's family but they refused," Foad Bazzari, Shelly's attorney said.

Mr. Bazzari had earlier asked the court to postpone announcing the verdict because he said that his client and the victim's family were trying to reach a settlement.

Presiding Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq, then turned down his request saying that the criminal court had finished reviewing the case.

According to judicial sources, the Court of Cassation will probably finish reviewing the Criminal Court's order within the next month.

Ministry approves foreign press club

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Information Monday announced that representatives of the foreign press in Jordan will now be permitted to set up their own club provided that the club's objectives do not conflict with those of the Kingdom's constitution and laws.

Ministry Secretary General Nayef Mawla called in a group of foreign journalists to his office to inform them of the ministry's approval of their application to establish a foreign press club in Jordan.

Mr. Mawla later said that the decision to allow the club to be established was based on Article 9 of Ministry of Interior regulations on foreign correspondents based here.

But Mr. Mawla stressed that the foreign journalists have to abide by regulations concerning the establishment of the club which must be based in Amman.

He said that the general assembly of journalists should, under the regulations, elect a board to serve for six months following

registration approval for the club.

The club's objectives should be social and cultural and aim at enhancing relations among journalists as well as between Jordanian officials. The club, according to ministry opinion, should also hold seminars and lectures.

The club is not, however, expected to hold or promote any political activities, Mr. Mawla stressed.

Members of this club are to register with the Ministry of Information. They must

not be of Jordanian nationality nor be affiliated through employment to any government, Mr. Mawla said.

In his meeting with foreign journalists, Mr. Mawla said he had discussed arrangements for the provision of facilities to local and foreign journalists during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference to help them cover the event. Foreign journalists will be allowed to bring in equipment for relaying their reports by satellite directly from the press centre, he added.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Bouillon de Culture: Chiel On va au cinema," at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

"A Hot Night," (in Arabic) at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 7:30 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

FILM

"Isamu Noguchi," at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.

• Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House.

• Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

• 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet.

• Open Air Sculpture workshop.

POETRY RECITAL

"By Mahmoud Tal at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"The Palestinian Status on the Second Anniversary of the Oslo Accord," by PNC member Mamdouh Nafal at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, at 6:30 p.m.

NEWS

• McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

* 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

EXHIBITIONS

* Abstract art by Iraqi artist Faris Ashour at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel.

* Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

* Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.



RECKLESS RIDING: An extra passenger sits atop parcels on a pickup truck being driven through southeast Amman. (photo by Yousef Al 'Athan)

Adams: British and Irish must move on peace

DUBLIN (R) — Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams challenged the British and Irish governments Monday to end the paralysis of the Northern Ireland peace process caused by a row over disarming his IRA backers.

"The governments have the responsibility to move the peace process forward," Mr. Adams said as he prepared to leave on a five-day visit to the United States.

He accused Britain of strangling efforts to forge a lasting settlement by its insistence that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) disarm as a precondition for Sinn Fein joining talks.

"The vacuum created by the British government is most unhelpful," Mr. Adams told Irish Radio.

Mr. Adams is under pressure from Britain, Ireland and the United States administration to ease his rejection of calls that the IRA start handing over some of its Semtex plastic explosive

and automatic weapons to nudge the peace process forward.

U.S. officials said at the weekend that they would be pressing Mr. Adams to move towards disarmament when he visits the White House this week.

The talks are expected to cover British and Irish suggestions that an international panel be established to oversee the question of disarmament, possibly under American chairmanship.

Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, President Bill Clinton's Ireland economic advisor, is widely tipped as a likely chairman of the body.

But U.S. officials were cautious. "All we've said is it's premature to discuss any U.S. government or private citizen role until there is a formal decision (to set up a commission)," one Washington official said.

President Clinton, a key mover in the peace process,

has called on the IRA and Protestant loyalist gunmen to start disarming but has not said this should be a precondition for all-party talks Britain and Ireland hope to hold.

"The president has said that parties observing the ceasefire 'must take the next step and begin to discuss seriously' decommisioning," he said. "We've made it clear to Sinn Fein and the loyalists that we expect movement on this issue," Jim Feig, a White House spokesman, noted.

A planned Anglo-Irish summit last Wednesday collapsed when Ireland pulled out saying Sinn Fein would not work with the commission, fearing it would be a trap to get the IRA to disarm as a precondition for talks.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said Thursday that the two governments might have to take a go-it-alone approach and take what steps they thought necessary

for the peace process if parties such as Sinn Fein could not agree in advance.

Mr. Adams told Irish Radio that it was up to the governments to decide what they thought was useful and Sinn Fein would study any proposals they made.

The peace process has been further clouded by the unexpected election last Friday of David Trimble as leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Trimble, a hardliner opposed to any talks with Sinn Fein while the IRA is still a standing army, has suggested that the guerrillas should disband before the UUP will talk to it.

His election is seen complicating the peace process and tying the hands of British Prime Minister John Major, who has a nine-seat majority in the House of Commons and has had to depend on UUP's nine votes in the past for survival.

Jesse Jackson Jr. to run for Congress

CHICAGO (AP) — The eldest son of civil rights leader Jesse Jackson announced his candidacy Saturday for the congressional seat that Democratic Rep. Mel Reynolds is leaving.

Jesse Jackson Jr. welcomed his father's support but said he expects to be elected on his own merits. "God has blessed me with a good name, a good name whose good works I intend to extend. But I neither seek nor expect any 'gimmies'."

The 30-year-old civil rights activist and lawyer added, "this is a democracy, not a royal lineage. I intend to work and earn your trust ... your respect ... your vote."

The father introduced the

son to more than 400 cheering supporters at the Salem Baptist Church. It was a combination news conference, political rally and revival meeting.

"We need an urban policy with incentives to reinvest in America, to reindustrialise America, to put America back to work at liveable wages," the candidate said, noting that labour rights, universal health care, affordable housing and safe neighbourhoods are also priorities.

His district, the 2nd, which includes parts of the South Side and suburbs, is 65 per cent black, about 30 per cent white and 5 per cent Hispanic.

Mr. Jackson is national field director of the National

Rainbow Coalition, his father's political group. The younger Jackson also has law and theology degrees and was recently elected secretary of the Black Caucus of the Democratic National Committee.

His own youth - he has never held elective office - will be an asset, he told the crowd. Most of those who have expressed interest in the 2nd District seat are in their 50s and could never develop as much seniority as he would on Capitol Hill.

And half of the 203 Democrats in Congress "will have expired, retired or been defeated" within 10 years.

"That means, at age 40, Jesse Jackson Jr. will likely be in leadership of the United States Congress and,

therefore, the only candidate who is presently running who would be there long enough to deliver the jobs," he said.

He also pledged to refrain from negative campaigning, saying his opponents "are not the problem."

Mr. Jackson is running to fill the seat left by Mr. Reynolds, who last week announced his resignation, effective Oct. 1. Mr. Reynolds was convicted on Aug. 22 of having sex with an underage campaign worker.

A date for the special election has not been set, but Mr. Jackson's opponents include at least two Democrats and two Republicans.

TV doctors triumphant in Emmy Awards

PASADENA, Calif. (R) — The 47th annual Emmy Awards programme turned out to be a good year for doctors on television, with programmes like ER, Frasier and Chicago Hope grabbing the biggest awards Sunday night.

ER, the gripping drama about life and death in a Chicago-area hospital emergency room, won top honours for best directing, writing and supporting actress while its crosstown rival Chicago Hope won best drama in American television's version of film's Academy Awards.

NBC's Frasier, a comedy based on a call-in psychiatrist show, grabbed five awards, including best actor for former cheerleader Kelsey Grammer, best supporting actor and best comedy series.

"It was kind of a tough year this year but things turned out okay," Grammer said, referring to charges, which were later dropped, that he had sex with an underage girl. "The personal end of my life has been challenged this year and I

was under a lot of stress. It's nice when this sort of thing happens."

Grammer's brother on the show, David Hyde Pierce, also won for best supporting actor for his role as Dr. Niles Crane.

The powerful combination of ER and Frasier gave NBC 28 awards overall, more than any other network. CBS was second with 19 while cable's Home Box Office (HBO) was third with 15.

ABC had only six awards, making it one of the lowest award-winning years for the network in decades.

ER's eight Emmys tied Hill Street Blues for the most awards in a single season and the most awards for a series in its first season. The show had been a heavy favourite with 23 nominations overall.

Among the major categories, Mandy Patinkin, star of the CBS hospital drama Chicago Hope, won for best drama actor while Kathy Baker, who plays Dr. Jill Brock in the CBS series Picket Fences, won her second

Emmy for best drama actress. Her first Emmy came in 1993.

ABC's NYPD Blue won for best drama, giving the controversial series a total of three awards overall.

Despite having won her fifth Emmy, Candice Bergen said she plans to leave her hit programme Murphy Brown at the end of this season.

Bergen won the Emmy for best actress in a comedy series, marking the first time in the academy's 47 year history someone has won five awards for leading actor or actress in a single series. Mary Tyler Moore has a total of five awards for two series.

Christine Baranski, an accomplished stage actress, won the Emmy for best supporting actress in a comedy series in the CBS comedy Cybill, while Ray Walston, won best supporting actor in a drama series for his role as Judge Henry Bone on the CBS series Picket Fences.

For Walston, a veteran comedian who played an

alien in the TV series My Favourite Martian, the Emmy capped a lengthy career in television and film.

"I have 30 seconds to tell you that I've been waiting 60 years to get up here on this stage," Walston said.

Barbra Streisand, who made a rare appearance in conjunction with her award-winning special Barbra Streisand The Concert won five Emmys, including three technical awards.

In the late night talk show war, NBC's Jay Leno won for best variety, music or comedy series, beating arch-rival David Letterman. Both talk show hosts have been battling for the title as king of late night entertainment since Letterman left NBC in 1993. Each comedian now has one Emmy to their credit.

Raul Julia, who died last October, received an Emmy for best lead actor in a miniseries or special for his role in The Burning Season. Julia's wife, Merel, accepted the award.



Pope John Paul II kisses a one-month-old baby, the youngest participant in the European youth pilgrimage, in the central Italian town of Loreto (AFP photo)

Pope meets with youth in shrine city

LORETO, Italy (AP) — Across a narrow sea from Europe's worst bloodletting in 50 years, Pope John Paul II Saturday urged young Europeans to maintain hope despite so many "shattered lives" in the Balkan war.

"Dear young people, reject narrow and violent ideologies. Stay far away from every form of hopeless nationalism and intolerance," Pope John Paul told the more than 200,000 youths from across Europe who had streamed into a plain near this shrine city.

The Pope sent his message directly to the heart of the war's nightmare: besieged Sarajevo, where several dozen young people gathered at the broadcast centre for a live television hook-up. Their faces and messages were displayed on a huge screen behind the Pope.

"With special affection, I embrace you," he said.

In the latest of his frequent condemnations of fighting in former Yugoslavia, Pope John Paul revealed an anguished tone.

"A few hundred kilometres from here, on the other shore of the Adriatic Sea, every day they are continu-

ing to die on the streets and in the squares," he said.

"How many of your peers among the victims of such a tragedy how many shattered lives there is continual talk of peace, but the war-making doesn't stop," he said.

NATO warplanes and artillery continued attacks on Bosnian Serbs Saturday, a day after what was described by negotiators as a major step forward in peace talks in Geneva.

Sarajevo officials canceled the nighttime curfew to allow people to gather in places to hear the Pope. Yet few ventured out into a city darkened by lack of electricity.

Young people also heard his words through TV hook-ups in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Paris; Santiago De Compostela, Spain; Dresden, Germany and the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania.

Pope John Paul, 75, walked through the dancing, singing, banner-waving youths in the cool, humid sea air to take the stage, listening to individual testimonies, greetings and soft-rock songs like that played by the 12-member Kelly Family Band from Ireland. He looked strong and

moved without the cane he frequently has used since a series of recent health problems.

Earlier, he visited the Holy House of the Virgin, which Roman Catholics revere as the home of the Virgin Mary. Tradition holds that angels brought it from Nazareth.

"Europe," as its organisers call it, was a sort of Woodstock for young Catholics in the city on the Adriatic Sea, just 120 kilometres from the Croatian coast. Bands played, musicians sang and thousands of backpackers spent the previous night on the plain.

The event also showed the Pope's mastery of modern media: it was broadcast live across Europe, and the organisers said thousands of messages had been sent to the Pope on a special Internet site set up for the visit.

Pope John Paul's visit to the medieval city marked the beginning of a flurry of travel after the quiet summer for history's most-travelled Pontiff. On Thursday, he heads to Africa for a six-day trip, then travels to the United States on Oct. 4.

Bush urges healing of Sino-U.S. ties

BEIJING (R) — Former U.S. President George Bush said Monday troubled Sino-U.S. relations must move from confrontation to consultation and urged Washington to help China play a role on the world economic stage.

Mr. Bush, speaking at a Beijing conference on food production, said problems over Taiwan that have sent Sino-U.S. ties plunging to what Beijing has called a 16-year low were acute.

But he urged both sides to look forward rather than back.

"I think we need more consultation and less confrontation," Mr. Bush said.

Sino-U.S. relations have sunk to their lowest point since they were established in 1979 after Washington enraged Beijing by allowing a landmark private visit by President Lee Teng-Hui of rival Taiwan to the United States last June.

Mr. Bush said the United States needed to renew its strategic dialogue with China to establish a new, sustainable foundation for cooperation, setting aside lingering bilateral disputes.

"That dialogue needs to rise above familiar bilateral issues to an exchange of perspectives about the post-cold war world," said Mr. Bush, a longtime visitor to China both as diplomat and

president and whom Beijing regards with great warmth.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin used a meeting with Mr. Bush last Friday to deliver Beijing's latest message to Washington, calling on the Clinton administration to take concrete action to improve troubled ties, saying verbal assurances were not enough.

"Everyone here realises there are some real strains in the relationship," Mr. Bush said. "Having said that, it is very important that we get beyond the difficulties that that visit caused."

Mr. Bush urged a meeting between top leaders of the two Asia-Pacific giants — an issue expected to be raised at a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen slated for the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month.

He reiterated Washington's commitment to its recognition of Beijing as the sole government of China, but warned China it might hear rhetoric in election year that it would find confusing — a reference to some rightwing Republicans who advocate closer ties with Taiwan.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949

and does not believe it has the right to independent foreign relations.

Beijing's Communist rulers and Taiwan's Nationalist government both say they want reunification but on different terms. Beijing has been enraged by what it sees as the attempt by Taiwan to emerge from international diplomatic isolation.

Mr. Bush urged Washington not to fear China's growing economic clout, but to nurture its role in international forums.

"The U.S. should take the lead in encouraging China to assume a political and economic role commensurate with its growing weight in the region, indeed in the world," he said.

Another issue that has angered Beijing and soured ties has been U.S. opposition holding up China's entry to the World Trade Organisation.

Beijing has called repeatedly on Washington to take "concrete steps" to improve ties, but has not said outright what Washington must do.

Diplomats say China wants a clear and public commitment from Washington that it will not allow future visits by Taiwan officials, even in a private capacity.

Washington is unlikely to agree, they say.

Burma relocating villagers for tourist zoo

BANGKOK (R) —

Burmese authorities are relocating "long-necked" minority women from their homes in eastern Burma to Rangoon to live in a model-village tourist attraction, a Burmese opposition group said. Ethnic minority people from more than 200 villages in Thandaw township in the hills of northern Karen state have been ordered to leave their homes by Nov. 10, the dissident All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) said in a statement. Among the hill people ordered to move to new locations on the low-land are members of the Padaung ethnic group whose women put metal rings around their necks giving them a "long-necked" look. The ABSDF said some of the Padaung people will be forced to live in a model village, which is being built near Rangoon in time for next year's "visit Myanmar year" and is described by the dissidents as an "ethnic human zoo". Many of the hill people were resisting the order to move and had fled into the forest instead, the ABSDF said. Independent confirmation of the ABSDF's report was not available but Padaung people have been promoted as tourist attractions before. A small group of Padaung women was taken from Burma to live in northwestern Thailand where tourists are charged money to take pictures of them. Another small group of Padaung people live near Burma's Inle Lake tourist destination in southern Shan state where tourists are also charged to visit and take photographs. The Padaung people are a sub-group of the Karen minority and live in the hills of eastern Burma's Karen and Kayah states.

Famous Audubon work on birds stolen

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — An original edition of Birds of America made from paintings by American naturalist John James Audubon was stolen from the Russian National Library, officials said. Library director Vladimir Zaitsev said the theft of the four-volume edition was discovered Thursday. He said it was impossible to estimate its value, although one published report put it at \$1 million. The book was stolen from the foreign department, where only the staff had access, Mr. Zaitsev said. A criminal investigation was opened, but no further details on the theft were available. Audubon published Birds of America in London from 1827-39. A work of 87 parts, it contained 435 life-sized, hand-coloured engravings made from the lifelike watercolours he painted of American birds in their natural surroundings. It is not the first theft from the Russian National Library. In the last two years, thieves have made off with Oriental manuscripts worth \$100-200 million — which were later recovered — four 18th-century French and German books, and Jewish books worth \$10 million. Mr. Zaitsev said he had asked the government months ago for funding for a sophisticated new alarm system. He noted that works of art also have been stolen in St. Petersburg from the Hermitage and Pavlovsk Museums.

Japan to have Record number of centenarians

TOKYO (AFP) — The number of Japanese becoming centenarians is expected to reach 6,378 by the end of September, setting a new record for the 25th straight year, the government said. The Health and Welfare Ministry said the figure represents a surge from 5,593 last year and nearly a 42-fold jump from 1963 when the ministry began tracking 100-year-olds. Women accounted for 5,123, or 80.3 per cent, of the total, including the nation's oldest person, Sue Utagawa, 111, who lives in Ajiu, Yamaguchi prefecture, western Japan, the ministry said.

Hurricane split island in two, dozens still missing in Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — On its rampage through the Caribbean, hurricane Luis tore apart more than houses, yachts and lives. It ripped an island in two.

As the centre of Luis passed over Barbuda Tuesday, it churned up 10-foot waves that breached a narrow inlet and severed a small northeast sliver of the island, part of the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Daily Observer newspaper on Antigua reported Saturday that the coral reef that makes up Barbuda was cut into six pieces. The storm wrecked 95 per cent of the buildings on the island, and battered its infant

tourist industry. The town of Codrington, where all of Barbuda's 1,500 residents live, was flooded, and sea water contaminated the water supply, the newspaper reported.

All the hotels on Barbuda, 280 miles east of San Juan, also were severely damaged: the Coco Point Lodge, where rooms went for \$400 a night; the "K" Club, which had its own golf course; Pink Sands; Palmetto and Sunset View.

The island was trying to develop itself as a tourist resort, especially for snorkellers and skin-divers attracted to the 60 shipwrecks on the reef.

While Barbuda's plight

was perhaps most dramatic, the suffering on the islands around it was no less real.

As the storm churned toward Bermuda, the official death toll on five islands rose to 16 when two more bodies were found on St. Maarten, the Dutch-administered half of St. Martin.

Some 65 per cent of the buildings on Antigua were destroyed, and the Red Cross said the hospital ran out of water Saturday.

The island of St. Martin, only days ago a pristine vacation spot for wealthy tourists, was a jumble of ripped-apart yachts, houseboats and shantytowns. Rescuers were searching for dozens of people believed

missing.

Damage in St. Martin was extensive. Telephone and power poles toppled by 130-mph (209-kph) winds and three-metre surf were still down. Hundreds of yachts and houseboats were tossed across piers and beaches. Jeties and airports were trashed, roads washed away and trees uprooted.

The Netherlands administers the better-developed side of the island, called St. Maarten. The other side, St. Martin, is French territory.

Dutch authorities closed the border Friday, imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew to prevent looting and allowing only relief planes to land. American Airlines began

flying residents only to the island on commercial flights Saturday.

Officials also turned back chartered helicopters with reporters on board, making it impossible to confirm the hurricane's toll. Authorities told some American reporters that they were tired of the negative publicity.

Dutch officials conceded Saturday that many more people may have died than the official death tolls — which were conflicting — indicate.

"The figure could rise," said Jan Meijer, a Dutch government spokesman in the Hague, the Netherlands.

"We know that a very large percentage of the hous-

es are severely damaged," he said. "We are not sure what we will find under the mess."

French authorities could confirm only a total of eight deaths on the island. Radio France Outre-Mers put the death toll at 30. The Dutch Red Cross said the toll on the Dutch side had reached seven.

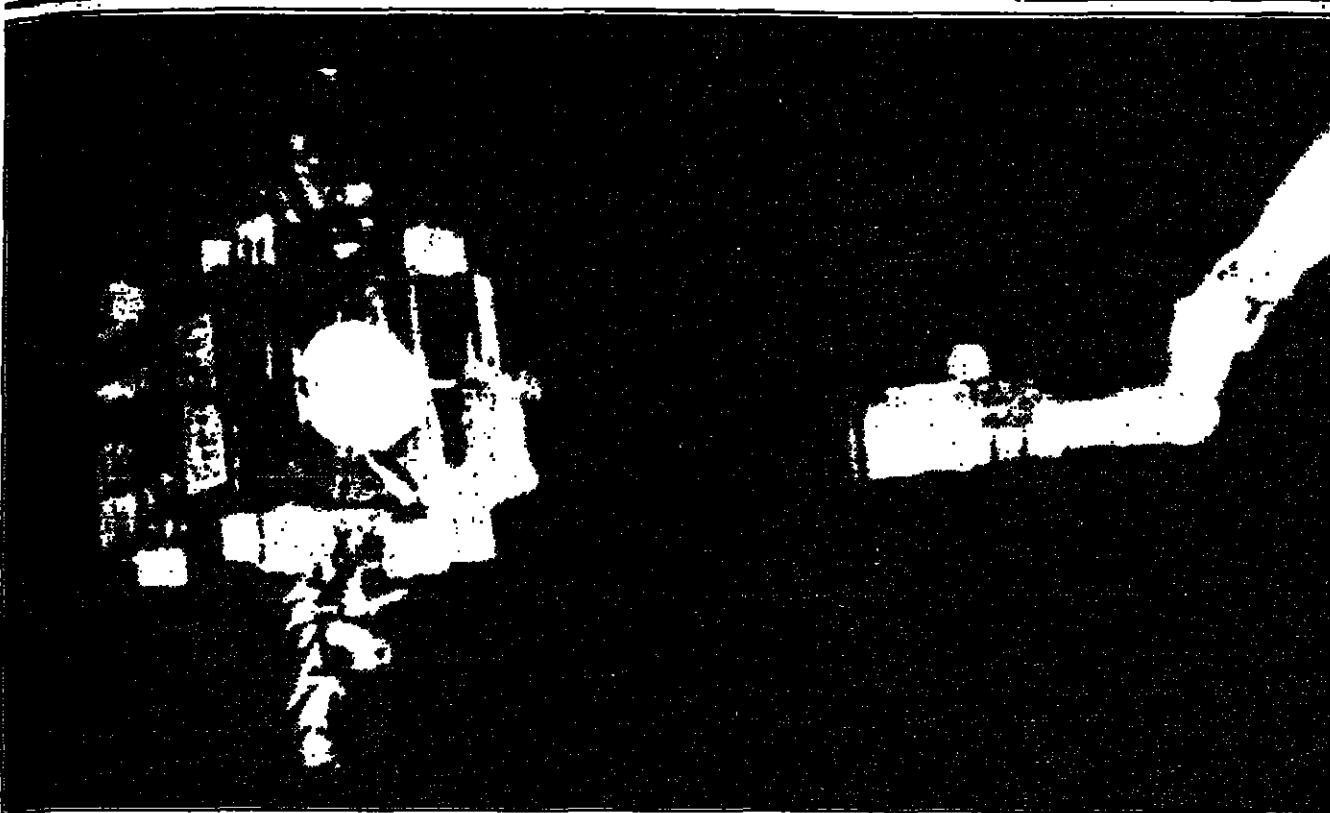
"Our priority is not to count the dead, but to help the living," said a man who answered the telephone at a St. Martin Police Station.

"Our priority is to find lodging for 2,000 homeless, medication and care for the wounded, and to clean up this mess," he said, refusing to give his name.

In addition to crushed buildings and ruined crops, Luis also could badly hurt the region's crucial tourist industries. The damage to Antigua and St. Maarten prompted two cruise lines to take those stops off their itineraries.

Norwegian Cruise Line said its ships the Norway and the Seaward will no longer stop at the islands, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line also said it would pass them over until the damage is repaired.

Luis accelerated Saturday, and was 362 kilometres west-southwest of Bermuda, moving north at 23 mph (37 kph) with maximum sustained winds of 161 kph.



The Spartan satellite (left) is approached by the space shuttle Endeavour's robot arm (right) as the shuttle is manoeuvred to grapple the satellite (AFP photo)

Astronauts successfully retrieve solar probe

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (R) — Astronauts on the shuttle Endeavour successfully hauled aboard a satellite packed with data to aid man's understanding of the sun and set about their next task — deploying a semiconductor factory in space.

That was an outstanding job, mission controller Mark Garmean told the crew after they reeled in the 2,800-pound (1,270 kg) Spartan satellite on the end of Endeavour's robot arm two days after placing it in orbit.

He described the rendezvous as "picture perfect" despite a 45-minute delay as pilot Ken Cockrell repositioned the shuttle to compensate for a slight change in the satellite's angle.

Scientists said the probe was out of alignment because it unexpectedly shut itself off shortly before it was recovered.

Craig Tooley, the project manager for the probe, said he believed Spartan had worked properly for the most of the time it was in space.

Television pictures beamed back from Endeavour, racing around the Earth at eight kilometres per second, showed the boxy, gold satellite sitting snugly in the cargo bay.

Some 1,000 pictures and data collected by the probe's telescopes should help scientists better understand solar winds, a phenomenon that causes power outages on Earth and interferes with radio and satellite communications.

Gases in the solar winds are about 10 million degrees hot, and blast past the Earth at speeds of up to 3.2 million kph.

The information will also be useful as scientists begin to develop a global cellular telephone system and high-speed air transportation.

Russian spacemen return to Earth

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth Monday after more than two months aboard the orbiting Mir space station, a mission-control spokesman said.

A Soyuz spacecraft carrying Anatoly Solovyov and Nikolai Budarin touched down safely in Kazakhstan, 107 kilometres north-east of the town of Arkalyk at 10.52 a.m. (0652 GMT), spokesman Gumar Gibadullin said by telephone.

Both cosmonauts are in good health after landing in the Soyuz capsule, Mr. Gibadullin said.

Solovyov and Budarin had been on board the Mir since June 29 when they went up as part of a U.S.-Russian joint space venture on the U.S. shuttle Atlantis.

The new crew is made up of Yuri Gidzenko, Sergei Avdeyev and German Thomas-Reiter, representing the European Space Agency. They will dock with a U.S. space shuttle in October.

Kohl pledges economic support to S. Africa

CAPE TOWN (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised after meeting South African President Nelson Mandela Monday to do all in his power to encourage stronger economic ties between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters in the garden of Mr. Mandela's Tuynhuys office, Mr. Kohl, the first German chancellor ever to visit South Africa, said economic growth was a key to political stability.

"It is my emphatic intention that we take a big, new step in the intensification of economic relations so that there will be as many new jobs as quickly as possible."

"I would like to assure you that we will lend you all the support that you will need," he said.

Mr. Mandela said Germany had this year become South Africa's biggest trade partner, overtaking the United States, and said Mr. Kohl's visit could encourage further growth.

"We believe that this visit will deepen and expand our relations," he said.

Responding to questions, Mr. Mandela said future relations would not be spoiled by Germany's failure to back all Western sanctions against South Africa's former apartheid government.

"Let bygones be bygones. We are now building our country and Germany is prepared to give us all the assistance which they are able to give us," he said.

Major German companies including Siemens and the BMW, Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen car manufacturers did not join U.S. and many other European countries in a withdrawal from the apartheid economy.

Germany is now the second biggest foreign investor in South Africa after Britain.

German officials said the total capital investment amounted to 5.6 billion rand (\$1.5 billion).

A number of German business leaders are accompanying Mr. Kohl.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. Kohl, the third European Union leader to visit South Africa since the transition to democracy, witnessed the signing of three treaties after a 10-minute private meeting.

South African Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Carsten Spranger signed an investment protection and promotion treaty.

The accord assures German investors protection against nationalisation and the right freely to move investment funds, earnings and dividends in and out of South Africa.

The other treaties set frameworks for technical cooperation and management assistance by seconded German officials.

Mr. Kohl arrived in South Africa Saturday on the first visit to the country by a German head of government.

The official part of his visit started with his meeting with Mr. Mandela.

Mr. Kohl followed a private programme Sunday, visiting landmarks including Table Mountain and the Groot Constantia estate where South Africa's first wine was produced more than 300 years ago.

He will fly to South Africa's commercial capital, Johannesburg, Tuesday and pay a visit to Germany's former colony of South West Africa, now independent Namibia before leaving for home Friday.

U.S. wants expansion of Security Council to 20 seats

JAKARTA (AFP) — The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Madeleine Albright, called Monday for an expansion of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to 20 seats, with Japan and Germany as permanent members.

"My government favours expanding the (Security) Council by as many as five seats to twenty," Mrs. Albright said in a speech to around 200 academics and officials here Monday.

The U.N. Security Council currently has 15 members, five of which are permanent: the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France.

"We believe that Germany and Japan should become permanent members," Mrs. Albright said, adding that non-permanent members should succeed themselves as a way to allowing important regional powers such as Indonesia to serve on the Council more often.

Indonesia's foreign minister, Ali Alatas, said here in March that "Indonesia should not be overlooked" if or when the decision was taken to expand the UNSC.

Indonesia has been serving on the UNSC as a non-permanent member since 1994.

Mrs. Albright arrived here Sunday from Burma for a two-day official visit to discuss matters which include U.N. peacekeeping efforts and East Timor with President Suharto and other senior officials.

In Rangoon, Burma, Mrs. Albright said she told one of the rulers Friday that "his country's isolation would only deepen unless concrete steps toward political freedom" are taken.

Mrs. Albright said she urged the Burmese government "to choose the path of true democracy rather than continued repression and dictatorial control."

Mrs. Albright was the highest-ranking official to visit Burma since a 1988 military coup. She said her two-day visit should not be interpreted as a warming of relations but as an affirmation of American support for democracy in Burma.

The United States has cool relations with the Burmese government, which it accuses of abusing human rights and refusing to cede power to the National League for Democracy, the main opposition party that won a landslide victory in a 1990 general election.

In an effort to ease its international isolation, Burma released the League's founder, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, from six years of house arrest in July.

Foreign governments applauded the move, but have been slow to restore economic and political ties.

"They believe that releasing Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi was a big step," Mrs. Albright said. "So I think they might have been a little bit surprised that I wasn't a little bit friendlier."

Burma's military government must choose "between its present isolation or reintegration into the international community," Mrs. Albright said at a news conference before leaving

Sri Lankan rebels kill 11 soldiers; navy foils suicide bid on port

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas blew up an army trailer in eastern Sri Lanka Monday, killing 11 soldiers, while the navy repulsed a suicide attack on a port, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off a mine and ambushed the soldiers at Wel Oya, a military spokesman said, adding that 11 more soldiers were wounded.

The navy foiled an attempt by a Tamil Tiger suicide squad at the strategic northern port of Kankesanthurai overnight Sunday, defence officials said.

Two men and two women were blown out of the water after they were detected, officials said. The bodies of the Tigers and their diving equipment were found Monday morning.

The LTTE blew up the navy's largest command ship, the Edithara, at the port in July, sacrificing 17 members of its Black Sea Tiger suicide unit.

Sunday's abortive attack was accompanied by a barrage of mortar bombs on the Palaly military complex which includes Kankesanthurai, officials said.

Mortars fell inside Palaly defences but the shells fell short of military installations, a defence ministry spokesman said.

Palaly also has the main northern air base and the army's regional headquarters.

Ground troops conducted a routine operation elsewhere in northeast Sri Lanka Sunday, and killed two Tiger guerrillas, the military said.

LTTE gunmen killed an officer and six soldiers during an ambush in the eastern village of Welikanda Sunday.

The rebels want a separate state for the two million Tamils in the north and east of the island. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict since 1972.

Powell tour may pave way for White House bid

WASHINGTON (R) — Colin Powell, the retired army general at the centre of the 1991 allied Gulf War victory, will launch a national tour this week that may foreshadow a run for the White House next year.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday that Gen. Powell would be a "very formidable contender" if he sought the Republican nomination to deny President Bill Clinton a second term.

Gen. Powell's 23-city, 20-day tour is nominally designed to pitch his newly published memoirs, leading to a decision on whether to enter the presidential race, as an independent or as a Republican.

A spokesman for Random House, publishers of Gen. Powell's book, said the swing would start with three book-signing events in the Washington, D.C. area beginning next Saturday.

In his much-heralded autobiography, Gen. Powell, a 58-year-old former head of the joint chiefs of staff, wrote that he believes many Americans agree with his centrist views and may be ready for a third major political party.

But Gen. Powell did not say whether he was prepared to lead such a movement or seek to become the first black president of the United States. He wrote that to be a successful politician requires "a calling I do not yet hear."

"My plan right now is to keep my options open through the book tour," Gen. Powell said in an interview with Time magazine, which published excerpts of his autobiography My American Journey in its issue on newsmen Monday.

Gen. Powell, in the interview, faulted the current Republican front-runner, Senate majority leader Bob Dole, for seeming to court the party's conservative right wing, which dominates the voting in primary votes.

"In order to appeal to the active wing of the party, most candidates are tacking to the right, and that seems to be what Bob Dole is doing," Gen. Powell told Time.

Sen. Dole, heading a field of nine Republican hopefuls, said in a CNN interview aired Sunday that Gen. Powell, in a conversation a few months ago, had told him he may not have the stomach for the race.

"He said he really didn't have the zeal or whatever it takes," Sen. Dole said on the Evans and Novak programme.

Gen. Powell also took a swipe at the Clinton administration's foreign policy operation, writing that national security meetings "meandered like graduate student bull sessions...Backbenchers sounded off with the authority of cabinet officers."

Mr. Gingrich, on the NBC programme Meet The Press, urged Gen. Powell not to run as an independent because, he said, the country's two-party system was too deeply rooted to ignore.

Russian soldier held for killing Chechen youth; grenade wounds 4

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Four civilians were wounded in the Chechen capital Saturday when a Russian officer fired a grenade launcher. In another incident a Russian commando was charged with shooting a Chechen teenager.

The incidents, which threaten to further damage a fragile peace accord, were reported by the Interfax News Agency.

It said the victims were seriously wounded. The grenade landed on a Chechen government construction site, it said, describing the firing as a case of "negligence."

The grenade was fired by a soldier from the Russian Interior Ministry, which beefed up street patrols after a 17-year-old boy was shot to death Friday by a member of the Russian special forces. The deployment, it noted, was aimed at "preventing further confusion involving federal troops."

More than 1,000 people demonstrated against the shooting of the teenager, who had reportedly taken a polaroid photograph of a Russian soldier and was offering to sell it to him.

Russian troops in armoured personnel carriers ringed the demonstration, which took place near the Russian roadblock where the teenager was machine-gunned to death.

The official ITAR-TASS news agency quoted a Russian military spokesman in Grozny as saying a member of Omon, the Interior Ministry's special troops, was arrested on charges of murder.

Thousands of people have died since Russia sent troops into Chechnya nine months ago to crush its independence movement and the government of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the self-proclaimed Chechen president.

A July 30 military pact mandating a prisoner exchange, Chechen disarmament and the start of Russian withdrawal has foundered amid mutual mistrust and accusations.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin recently appointed a close associate, Oleg Lobov, as his personal representative in the breakaway southern republic to try to ease the problems there.

The leading Russian newspaper Izvestia Saturday characterised as "a real sensation" Mr. Yeltsin's statement that he would allow his old rival Ruslan Khasbulatov to enter continuing negotiations between the warring sides.

Mr. Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen and the former speaker of Russian parliament, spent four months in jail for his role as a leader of the October 1993 armed uprising against Mr. Yeltsin.

"I think we should not write off Khasbulatov," Mr. Yeltsin said at a news conference Friday. "He has a certain standing in Chechnya. Why should we always remember the past?"

He was not at all conciliatory, however, on the question of Chechnya's quest to secede from Russia.

"I am the guarantor of the constitution, and the constitution is clear on this — the question should not even have to be raised," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"No one is going to leave Russia. Russia is indivisible."

Bangladesh heads for confrontation

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's long-running feud over elections could lead to a head-on confrontation between the government and opposition, diplomats and analysts said Monday.

The clock is ticking towards a moment of possible savage fighting between the government and opposition, an Asian diplomat said.

"Under the apparent calm holding across the political arena we can feel a smoldering unrest building up intensely," he told Reuters.

Bangladesh is facing a marathon 72-hour national strike next week called by the main opposition parties as their latest effort to end the rule of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

They demand she step down to allow a neutral, caretaker administration to supervise early elections, not otherwise due until March next year.

Mrs. Khaleda, who has ruled the country for four and half years and has never shown any sign of bowing to the opposition demands or conceding to threats, has said the strike, the latest of many, should be resisted.

"Resist strikes or any other activities that disrupt development, threaten democracy, lives and property and seeks to cut short a legitimate rule," she told two rallies outside Dhaka Sunday.

She described the opposition parties, which have already successfully organised three days of strikes this month, as enemies of the nation and urged people to stand firmly against them.

Political analysts saw Mrs. Khaleda's remarks as the staunchest affirmation that she would make no concession or compromise with her opponents.

Opposition legislators quit parliament in December to force the resignation of Mrs. Khaleda.

Sheikh Hasina, chief of the largest opposition party, the Awami League and Mrs. Khaleda's arch-foe, said last week she wanted power to be transferred immediately to the chief justice as head of a caretaker government until the next vote was held.

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THANKS

The board and children of the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped wish to express their appreciation to the **MARRIOTT HOTEL** and all its employees for having sponsored and organized the 10th Annual Charity Train Ride to Dabha Castle.

We applaud the enthusiasm of the Marriott staff for what turned out to be a very successful excursion on Thursday 7th September.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the **JETT** bus company for having provided the return transportation.

As this annual event helps to support the education and rehabilitation of handicapped children at our centre, the continuing patronage by organizations like yourselves, together with other sponsors and participants is invaluable to our Society.

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Historical, mutual interests

AS A forerunner to the crucial months ahead, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's current tour of the Middle East and his visit to Jordan today assumes great significance. It comes at a time when the region is emerging from a state of conflict to one of peace, while simultaneously Spain heads the European Union. Spain, an increasingly assertive member of the EU, has always advocated stronger relations between EU nations and those of the Mediterranean on which Spain itself lies. Spain has always sought to forge stronger ties with Arab states on account of historic links with the Arab World. Spain realises very well, as do other European nations, that the future security and prosperity of their continent depend largely on the development and future of the Near and Middle East.

It is with this conviction that we look at Mr. Gonzalez's visit and hope that it will lead to the enhancement of peace and the strengthening of Arab-Spanish and particularly Jordanian-Spanish relations. To be specific, we expect Spain — that currently holds the EU presidency — to contribute to the two important events occurring this autumn, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman in October and the Barcelona conference in November.

The peoples of the Middle East, in their quest for peace, have pinned great hopes on both conferences. Although Europe was denied an active and direct role in the process of peace-making, a process still ongoing, it can certainly play a greater role in peace-building that, when successful, should entice more nations to join the peace effort. Jordan, traditionally a close friend of Spain, expects Madrid to use its good office to ensure that the October summit yields the results desired by the countries of the region, especially those involved in peace-making and building. Likewise, Jordan wants the Barcelona conference to achieve its goals and will exert every effort towards the realisation of its objectives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily voiced total support for Syria's stand vis-a-vis the peace process and strong criticism for Israel's procrastinations which he said was delaying the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region. Ibrahim Zaarour said that despite earlier reports that the Syrians and the Israelis were about to sign a peace treaty, statements from officials on both sides speak otherwise. Recalling that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told a press conference in Cairo lately that the peace process was in slumber, the writer said that the Israelis were to blame for not showing real interest in making peace with Syria and for not showing any genuine move towards peace but instead were holding on to their intransigent position which could by no means be acceptable to Damascus. While Syria is demanding total withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for total peace, the Israelis are trying to force Syria to accept their own concept of peace and phased withdrawal over a number of years, noted the writer. He said that Syria was right in its legitimate position and its endeavours should be supported by all Arab states adding that Israel could not be trusted to honour its commitments.

THE GOVERNMENT'S withdrawal of passports from Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin and replacing them with temporary passports came under severe criticism by Saleh Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour. According to law, passports or the status of citizenship cannot be cancelled except through a decision from the Council of Ministers, the writer said. But it is regrettable to see that this is being done at random, depending on the whims and moods of officials at the passport department or the officials at the points of entry and border posts, he said. Noting that this practice had done a great harm to a large sector of citizens who originated from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the writer said that a great number of those citizens were avoiding renewing their passports for fear of facing a situation which is detrimental to their livelihoods. If the government says that Palestinians can have their own Palestinian passports and under Arab League regulations "ne cannot hold dual Arab nationality, then how could many more important Arab League rules be ignored by the majority of Arab states? he asked. He said that many people including senior Jordanian officials carry more than one Arab nationality as well as foreign nationality. The writer said "government should end this practice against Palestinians whose destiny and national interest are the same as those of all Jordanian people."

The View from Fourth Circle

Making peace at home and in the region

By Rami G. Khouri

AMONG THE many thought-provoking things that H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan said in his speech to the Building on Peace conference earlier this week, perhaps the most interesting were his comments about the need to conduct an informed domestic debate between proponents and opponents of the current Arab-Israeli peace process. Most important, I thought, were the following statements by Crown Prince Hassan: "We believe that the doubters will not be silenced by repression but by the tangible benefits of the peace dividend. Those who disagree with the peace must have their say. The politics of hints, innuendoes and whispers is out of keeping with the culture of peace. A public debate about the implications of peace is on, and it will continue. We call for an informed debate."

This important call for informed public debate on such an important issue may also be seen as a reaffirmation of our commitment to open and pluralistic dialogue as a defining attribute of Jordanian statehood and political culture. I believe that we are still moving in this direction, despite some evidence to the contrary in our domestic political life this year. The Crown Prince's call for informed public debate on normalisation and peace, as these are currently structured and defined by the government, was coupled with a further important statement. He said that Jordan's "domestic priorities are to continue liberalising our political system and our economy. Pluralism, accountability and increased respect for human rights remain the goals of our democratisation process."

I believe these statements by the person of the Crown Prince himself are important because they address three issues that are at the very heart of Jordanian political life and even the Jordanian national condition: the peace process, the quality of our political system today, and the direction in which we expect to travel in the future. I see the Crown Prince's statements not only as a challenge to those who oppose the current form and pace of the peace process, they can also be seen as a challenge to the government and the power structure itself — which are still in the midst of coming to terms with the realities of a system in which executive authority is newly subject to the

checks and balances of legislative approval and judicial review — as well as to the political cajoling and moral force of the highest political leadership of the realm.

The debate about the peace process brings this dynamic into sharp and immediate focus. The proponents and opponents of peace in Jordan have staked out their positions rather clearly, but both sides have done a very poor job of providing convincing arguments. This is primarily because they have been engaged in a series of increasingly bitter exercises in unilateralism, of isolated statements, promises and threats by both sides that are thrown out into our expanding political space where they float, linger and dissipate.

The sad fact about the debate about peace in Jordan today is the peculiar absence of debate. We have a steady stream of statements by both sides but no meaningful intellectual or ideological meeting of minds or even looking of horns. The peace process has not enriched our political democratisation and liberalisation; it has stunted it, even retarded it. Not only has the peace process disappointed most Jordanians' expectations in the economic realm, it has also further seriously increased their scepticism about their domestic political system. On all sides of the system, the government is seen to be slipping back into a more autocratic mode, the opposition is seen to be stumbling on its own inadequacy and impotence, and the institutional structures of parliament and the political parties are seen to be merrily moving right along without much visible or tangible impact on the quality of people's lives.

Meanwhile, the peace process itself is in danger of suffering from all this — for the absence of a serious, open discussion of the nature and consequences of peace threatens to throw us by default into the arms of the single strongest actor in this regional and global game: the alliance of American-Israeli and other regional state and corporate interests that cares more to generate financial profits from selling fried chicken and Phoenix Suns hats to the people of this region than to respect the people's national and personal human rights.

Therefore, the Crown Prince's call for an "informed

public debate" comes at a critical moment, and it potentially impacts on far more than the peace process with Israel. If the worst scenario occurs — normalisation is forced upon the Jordanian people by a combination of hasty government intolerance and insensitive corporate greed, leaving a legacy of fractured and embittered domestic politics amidst a landscape of social fragmentation and economic distress and disparity — then we run the risk of following in the large but clumsy political footsteps of Egypt, without having Egypt's ample cultural and demographic cushions to soften the blow.

But, if the best scenario occurs — an enlightened government, an educated citizenry and a rational opposition engage in a healthy, constructive debate that leads to a genuine Jordanian consensus on how to translate the current peace treaty with Israel into a bounty of national unity and solidarity, psychological ease, sustainable economic growth, and genuine peace and stability for Arabs and Israelis alike — then we can expect Jordan to live up to the promise that it has always shown in its entire statehood: the promise of rational and humane politics, personal dignity and freedom, realistic economics, and commitment to meeting human needs as the cornerstone of genuine national development.

The real issue at stake here is not only the fate of the peace process, it is the quality of Jordanian political culture, even the meaning of Jordan and of the Jordanian national identity. The Crown Prince has provided a timely and important opportunity for both the proponents and opponents of the peace process to step off the hysterical slide down the slippery slope towards the politics of intemperance, narrow self-interest and division, and instead to regroup in order to reformulate a credible Jordanian consensus on the critical importance of rationality, justice and peace as both regional and domestic virtues. We have reached this stage of our young but impressive statehood because we have always remained faithful to these values. This is the moment to reaffirm them, not to forsake them.

Bombing Serbs, pressuring Muslims

By Michael Jansen

WITH EVERY NATO bomb dropped on Serb targets in Bosnia pressure will increase on the Muslim-led Bosnian government to agree to the U.S. peace plan for Bosnia.

Although the public perception is that the bombing raids and the shelling of Serb gun emplacements are meant to force the Serbs to the negotiating table, the plan, in fact, gives in to almost all their demands and could deprive the Bosnian Muslims not only of territory but also of their independence and sovereignty.

Wary of the plan, the Bosnian government initially said it would not attend the conference meeting now in Geneva. However, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic stated on Wednesday, after the NATO strikes against the Serbs recommenced, that the Bosnian government would attend the meeting. He was speaking in Ankara during meetings with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, cooped in the U.S. drive to secure a settlement by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke.

The seven-point U.S. plan provides for a 51-49 territorial division of the country, with the 40 per cent to Bosnian Muslims

and the 30 per cent Croats and others receiving just over half while the 30 per cent Serbs get just under half. Thus, first and foremost, the territorial division of the country imposed by Europe two years ago and now adopted by the U.S. is unjust and likely to produce a sense of abiding anger, perhaps, leading to instability.

The split, according to Mr. Holbrooke, would mean partition of the country but the creation of autonomous areas in a single, internationally recognised state. However, here he has been misleading. The Bosnian Muslims have protested the plan's "constitutional arrangements" which would prevent the Serbs from forming a "confederation" with Serbia while the mixed Bosnia autonomous area would strengthen its present "confederal" links with Croatia.

Such an arrangement would be the Bosnian Muslim's nightmare for the Serbs would not only have secure their "greater Serbia" but also the Muslims, who are a majority in Bosnia, would be converted, once again, into a minority in a Catholic Christian "greater Croatia". Thus, the Muslim demand for a multiethnic pluralistic state would be sacrificed to the "religio-ethnic national-

ists" of Serbia and Croatia.

The fact that the Serbs are being represented in these negotiations by the Serb president of the rump Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic (who launched the Balkan conflict) rather than the obdurate Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, demonstrates clearly that the "greater Serbia" option has been accepted by the U.S.

The American peace plan, backed up by the bombing campaign against the Serbs and political pressure on all the parties, is in itself a defeat for the policy on Bosnia enunciated by the Clinton administration when it took office. At that time President Bill Clinton strongly advocated the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia so that the Muslims could defend themselves, in accordance with the articles of the U.N. Charter. However, European opposition on the grounds that this would intensify the conflict and endanger European peacekeepers prevented Mr. Clinton from carrying out his policy and, in time, converted Mr. Clinton to the European point of view. This radical transformation amounted, to nothing less than the "Europeanisation of Bill" and now he can be expected to implement

faithfully Europe's plan for preventing the emergence of a Muslim-majority state in Christian Europe and the reduction of the Bosnian Muslims into an impotent minority.

To implement this plan the U.S. has, apparently, committed 25,000 troops to monitor and enforce the terms of the accord by patrolling the new frontiers and protecting aid workers. The Americans would make up half of an overall NATO deployment of 50,000 troops which would remain in Bosnia for nine to 18 months or until they could make a graceful exit.

To make matters worse, it would seem that the only allies the Bosnian Muslims appear to have in the international community, the Muslim states, are acquiescing in this Euro-American settlement scheme. Representatives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and of Turkey are attending the Geneva meeting. Heartened by the long-awaited NATO raids against the Serbs, wreaking vengeance for more than three years of ethnic cleansing, murder and rape of Bosnian Muslims, Muslim countries are being used to sanctify a settlement which can only further deprive the Bosnian Muslims of their rights.

LETTERS

Insufficient facilities

To the Editor:

I FOLLOW with interest Dr. Fahed Faneh's weekly column in your newspaper, but I do not agree with him when he asserts that "Aqaba Airport's present size and capacity is more than sufficient to accommodate the present and future traffic needs to and from Aqaba" (Sunday's Economic Pulse, Jordan Times, Sept. 11).

Perhaps Dr. Faneh has not used present airport facilities at a time when their capacity was put to the test. Last January, I was returning from Aqaba to Amman via the Aqaba Airport. I returned on the same flight with a group of 30 or so Italian tourists. As it turned out, the airport's "present size and capacity" was not enough to fit these tourists, their luggage, and other passengers on the flight. Indeed, there was a line stretching from the solitary check-in counter all the way to the front door of the airport terminal. While the "size" of the airport could not accommodate a full flight, its "capacity" in terms of security (x-ray of luggage) and passengers processing were even less adequate. Needless to say, the flight to Amman was delayed for more than two hours while the airport staff attempted to sort out the mess of a full flight.

I do not blame Dr. Faneh for being cautious when it comes to spending \$200 million on improving the present airport, especially when such an expenditure might be shouldered by Jordan alone. However, I believe that expanding the airport is not a luxury but a necessity. A Businessweek report on Jordan a month or so ago predicted that Aqaba will be the first place in Jordan that will reap the "dividends of peace." Nonetheless, this prediction will, without a doubt, not turn into a reality if we do not invest in Aqaba by anticipating future demands for transportation. A modern airport capable of absorbing the increasing influx of tourists into Aqaba is the least of our preparations. After all, Aqaba is sure to be on any tour group's agenda due to its rich marine life and proximity to Petra and Wadi Rum (Jordan's main tourist attractions).

Dr. Faneh is also correct in stating that "too many projects are being circulated," but improving Aqaba Airport is not one of those projects with little "tangible benefits to the Jordanian people." On the contrary, the economy of the entire country will benefit from the presence of an increasing number of tourists in Jordan. Expanding Aqaba Airport will help spur growth in the tourism and service sectors, filling the vacant rooms in our hotels and the empty tables at our restaurants. A modern and expanded airport capable of absorbing more flights will also take a load off Jordan's highway system, allowing the government to spend less on servicing the Amman-Aqaba stretch in the long-run.

Nevertheless, if Dr. Faneh does not consider the aforementioned arguments to be adequate to support the expenditure to expand Aqaba Airport's present facilities, then I ask him: Is an airport that cannot absorb the pressures of a single, full flight "sufficient to accommodate the present and future traffic needs to and from Aqaba?"

Samer G. Zureikat
P.O. Box: 21160
Amman 11181

Balanced coverage

To the Editor:

I JUST wanted to congratulate you on such a balanced, world coverage, well reported set of articles, without trivia, in your newspaper, which I had the satisfaction of reading earlier in the year, visiting the country as a tourist.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

By William Buckley Jr.

THOSE WHO concern themselves with right and wrong are up against it in the Bosnian situation. More or less simultaneously, two ethical findings matured, reaching wide acceptance among moralists. They are: (1) It is unethical to bomb civilian concentrations. (2) It is unethical to single out the leader of a hostile state for clinical execution.

The first position evolved in reaction to the extravagances of World War II, much as the anti-gas convention was a response to some of the tortures of World War I. It held that the bombing of civilians, if civilians were the targets of that bombing, is an unjustified act of war.

We note the care taken by the NATO offensive against the Bosnian Serbs in the last few days. Except when it was simply impossible to detach civilians from targeted ammunition dumps or artillery nests, the bombs and missiles restricted themselves to these military objectives.

We waive, for the purposes of this analysis, such vexing questions as: How do you deter an aggressive nuclear power without threatening nuclear retaliation? And the finer point: How do you distinguish morally between the conscripted soldier required to feed shells into an artillery piece

from his civilian brother who works in a factory that makes the metal cylinders into which the explosives are placed? Not easy.

But more or less at the same time, the ethical position hardened against the assassination of leaders of enemy states. The Church Committee of the Senate, which investigated the CIA in 1975, established beyond reasonable doubt that President Kennedy and his brother Robert commissioned the assassination of Fidel Castro. The job was bungled, but that bungling has nothing to do with the ethical question.

When in 1986 President Reagan ordered a strike against Libya to protest its terrorist activities one of the fighter bombers sought out the palace in which Muammar Qadhafi slept. It happened that he wasn't there that night, but every one involved in the operation was disappointed.

Even as we were disappointed yet again when during the bombings of Iraq in January 1991 we failed to destroy Saddam Hussein.

Now sophisticated moralists will distinguish between trying to kill Adolf Hitler in the course of a bombing raid (OK), and dispatching an assassin to kill Hitler (not OK). One has to conclude that such covenants are agreed to with self-serving motives. If JFK can pass on the word that he

would like Mr. Castro shot, Mr. Castro can pass on the word that he would like JFK shot — indeed, it was widely conjectured at the time that this was exactly what Mr. Castro did do, except that where JFK failed, Mr. Castro succeeded.

Now we have in Bosnia a situation in which Radovan Karadzic is as identifiably guilty of genocide, on his own scale, as Hitler and Josef Stalin were, and indeed the Rwandans are. One reason given for sparing dictator malefactors is that if you eliminate them, you are left with no one you can deal with in order to make an acceptable peace.

We ruled out, in Germany, any dealings of any kind with Hitler, and it is entirely possible that this decision, morally attractive as it was, cost the Allies perhaps 400,000 or 500,000 more dead. In the case of Japan, we agreed to let Emperor Hirohito survive, and it was through his offices that the peace was finally made.

Without much difficulty one could try Mr. Karadzic in absentia and establish beyond any doubt his guilt. But these trials do not materialise, because of bureaucratic objections. And we are left then with an insulated dictator aggressor.

What would be ideal, in the days ahead? Obviously,

the assassination of Mr. Karadzic and as many of his general staff as could be targeted by a sniper's bullet or a well-aimed mortar shell. We have special people trained to do special things in military situations.

The argument against publicising our intentions is plain: The targeted people become very hard to find. The argument in favour of publicising our intentions is easily understood by anyone familiar with the traditions of Mafia life: If someone violates the covenant, he is under sentence of death, no matter how long it takes to find him. That slows a lot of people who would otherwise act ad lib.

Mr. Karadzic should know that he is under sentence of death. And a special force should be given that assignment. The novel by Frederick Forsyth called "The First of God" marvelously explores practices in Iraq-Kuwait, and much is to be learned from reading that book.

But we begin by acknowledging that some forms of warfare become a moral art. You can't parse them in constitutional language. You just do it.

William Buckley Jr. is president and editor at large of National Review and a nationally syndicated columnist. This article is reprinted from the Washington Times.

Targetting malefactors — with selective sorties

Features

Experts agree Jordan deserves world support

(Continued from page 1)

Schwarz from the Washington Institute, former U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, Jordanian Parliament member Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Israeli Minister of Health Ephraim Sneh, and James G. Roche of Northrop Grumman Corporation.

Describing the discussions as lively and intriguing, and comments made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in a Saturday meeting as "inspirational," Mr. Lewis, now a councillor at the Washington Institute, summed up the deliberations of the various working groups that were part of the event.

While welcoming as a "highly worthy goal in the long term," the Crown Prince's call for a Conference on Security in the Middle East along the lines of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr. Lewis said the panelists found that it was "too early to think of mechanisms" to realise the proposal.

Noting that the very concept of the proposal was consolidation of regional security, he said that the present situation in the Middle East was not very conducive to realise the goal. He pointed out that Syria and Lebanon were staying away from regional talks and Iran and Iraq were "rogue states" (as called by President Bill Clinton) which need to change "their attitudes towards their neighbours."

It is also unclear how Iran-Iraq relations will fit into the equation, particularly that Iraq's future remains "somewhat cloudy," he added.

An important element that was not discussed by the working groups was Jordan's historical relations with Iraq and how Jordanians viewed Iraq as "their strategic hinterland" against Israel. "There is a clear misunderstanding in the U.S. over this relationship," he said.

With Jordan having made

peace with Israel, this relationship is changed, with the Kingdom now being a "buffer" between its western and eastern neighbours, he noted, adding that this is an element that should be taken into consideration by the U.S.

On Jordanian expectations for dividends of peace, Mr. Lewis said serious efforts should be exerted to help Jordan realise the hopes attached to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled to be held next month and strong international support should reach the Kingdom, and more focus should be given to the private sector.

Noting the American write-off of \$700 million of Jordan's debts, Mr. Lewis said, "Unfortunately others have not followed" the U.S. lead.

Jordan is justifiably feeling "let down" for having received little in international aid after seeing the Palestinian track of negotiations being financially supported by the world community, said Mr. Lewis. Particularly so, given that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty "is the most far-reaching and innovative treaty ever to be reached" between two adversaries.

One of the practical things that Americans interested in Jordan could do "is to encourage American tourism" to the Kingdom, he said. Increased knowledge of Jordan among Americans who visit the Kingdom could be eventually translated into a more favourable position in the U.S. towards aid to Jordan, he pointed out.

The U.S. administration should also extend "preferential treatment" to Jordanian products and increase the "extremely low volume" of \$35 million in American imports from Jordan.

"Islamic radicalism," Mr. Lewis said, did not pose a threat to Jordan's stability because of His Majesty King Hussein's religious background and his policies that

have always accommodated Islamic political thinking in mainstream politics.

But as to the effect of such "radicalism" on the Palestinian territories, Mr. Lewis said, the panelists could not reach a consensus. However, he added, the repercussions of extremism in the West Bank and Gaza could be felt in Jordan.

Another consensus was the need for a "trilateral relationship" among Jordan, Palestinians and Israel as the only way to encourage and nurture economic development of the immediate region shared by the three since the effect of bilateral relations and cooperation will be limited.

Mr. Majali, head of Al Ahd party and member of the Jordanian Parliament, said that in view of the lopsided balance of power in the region, the Arabs needed the U.S. to support their positions in negotiations with Israel.

Describing the conference as a "new baseline for a prosperous future," Mr. Majali told the audience that Jordan was fully committed to the peace treaty it signed with Israel but Israel needed to address the concerns of the other parties in the peace process before durable peace could be reached.

Mr. Majali acknowledged that he was often described as "Jordanian Likud," but rejected suggestions that this meant hostility towards or rivalry with Palestinians.

Since Jordan has acknowledged the need for a Palestinian entity and a Palestinian identity, and the Palestinians have entered their own accord with Israel, Mr. Majali said, he favoured moves to establish the parameters of "that entity and that identity."

Jordanian nationalism, he said, meant a "total commitment to our Constitution and our political system," and as long as such commitment exists, then "origins do not matter."

Mr. Majali also underlined the need to "prepare the people psychologically" for the Israel-Palestinian "final

status" negotiations.

He also called for the "psychological comfort" of the people by ensuring that Israel's weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms, be eliminated, and urged the U.S. to lobby its friends in Europe to extend financial support for Jordan.

Mr. Roche of Northrop Grumman emphasised the need to "deliver the benefit of peace to the people" as quickly as possible. "We should not allow it to be a trickle," he said, calling for better educational facilities and technical training for Jordanians and for Jordan not to be limited to access to Israeli technology.

Without naming any country, Mr. Roche said as long as other key regional countries remained absent from the deliberations there was little sense in seeking regional security structures. What was the very purpose of "friends" agreeing to security arrangements among themselves when the potential threats come from a different source, he asked.

Dr. Sneh, the Israeli health minister, focused on means to counter extremism in the region and the need for the channelling of funds to help improve the quality of life of the people.

Dr. Sneh also defended his government's closure of borders against Palestinian labourers after every attack saying "we have to take precautions."

The minister was defending criticism that Israel was imposing collective punishment against the more than 2.5 million Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip who depend on the Jewish state for employment.

Dr. Sneh, speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of the conference, said the Israeli government was seeking to "gradually raise the number of Palestinian labourers allowed" to enter the Jewish states, but he rejected suggestions that the blanket closures for days, or weeks at times, should be discontinued.

Addressing the confer-

ence, Mr. Sneh said there was an urgent need for the parties involved in the Middle East peace process to "join hands and fight terrorism in all its forms."

Parallel to the "fight against terrorism," Dr. Sneh said, improving the quality of life of people in the region "will narrow the room available to extremists to manoeuvre."

"The United States, Europe, Canada — the industrialised world — should make an urgent and prompt effort to convince governments, banks and other organisations to funnel investments to projects in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza," he told the conference.

He said there were many investment opportunities that held out promise of profits while also contributing to restoring stability and security to the region.

"Every cent sent and invested in such projects," he said, "is a cent spent on the universal fight against terrorism and extremism."

An Egyptian participant, a former general, complained that he felt that the entire conference was focusing on the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli triangle that excludes Egypt and other countries in the region.

Mr. Lewis corrected him with an emphatic reference to the weight of Egypt in the region but pointing out also that the central theme of the conference was Jordan-Israel peace and advised against "the sense of conspiracy," which, he said, seems to prevail these days in Cairo.

Mr. Roche was more blunt but still diplomatic. "There are real advantages to warm peace," he told the general in an implicit jab at the "cold peace" between Egypt and Israel.

The conference, convened as part of the Washington Institute's 10th anniversary celebrations, was attended by 50 trustees and associates of the thinktank.

Robert Saloff, executive director of the institute, closed the debate after describing the event as a "smashing success."

Merged leftists want to consolidate democracy

(Continued from page 1)

differences that do exist between us and the Islamists. It started since the enforcement of certain laws despite the wish of the people and the undemocratic measures the government used to oppress freedom of expression," Mr. Amer asserted.

"There are major differences between us and the Islamists and the government knows it," agreed Mr. Mdanat.

Both say that they were willing to work with any party, regardless of its ideology or conflicting points of views in certain issues, for the sake of ensuring democracy in Jordan as well as fighting normalisation of relations with Israel in the absence of comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Amer said that since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, government has adopted many "undemocratic measures" against any opposition to the treaty, overlooking the differences in the left's reservation and the Islamists' outright rejection of the principle of peace with the Jewish state. This, he said, has reinforced the necessity of the coalition in fighting both normalisation as well as the "lack of democracy."

3 parties announce merger plan

(Continued from page 1)

by Islamists and leftists, thus overshadowing mainstream political parties whose views on the treaty are very close to those of the government.

Observers believe that the unification moves (left and centre) represent an admission of weakness and a desire to play a more effective role in the affairs of the country.

"The current situation of political parties and their effectiveness in Jordan is not comforting since some of them have become none more than names or a file in the general secretary's drawer," columnist Sultan Hattab wrote recently in Al Ra'i.

Popular support for political parties have decreased since party legislation in 1993 and members are quitting their parties blaming disorganisation and leadership competition.

Members of the new party interviewed by the Jordan Times echoed Mr. Amer and Mr. Mdanat that their party will have a unique performance due to its tolerance of ideological differences among its members and its focus on cooperation to deal with the challenges Jordan faces in light of regional developments.

Like other leftist parties, the DUP believes in peace with Israel, but rejects "submissive deals like Oslo and Wadi Araba that fall short of adhering to international legitimacy."

The party will also fight the "regression" of democracy and the government's "intimidation practices" against the opposition, says Mr. Amer.

The DUP also has a firm stand on Jordanian-Iraqi relations following the recent defection to Jordan of a top Iraqi official.

The DUP insists that Jordan should refrain from "interfering" in Iraq's internal affairs and is against the warm reception that defector Hussein Kamel was given. It also opposes allowing General Kamel to use Jordan as a base for working towards toppling the Iraqi regime, according to Mr. Mdanat.

While he believes that the Iraqi leadership is bad as far

as democracy and human rights are concerned, Mr. Mdanat, insists that "any change should stem from within Iraq and through the initiative of the Iraqi people away from plotting."

"It is for Jordan's own good to refrain from interfering in the issue," he said.

Politicians, analysts and even some members of the Cabinet have said that although Jordan calls for the lifting of the sanctions against Baghdad, imposed since it invaded Kuwait in 1990, they were against meddling in another country's internal affairs. They also said that Gen. Kamel cannot provide an acceptable alternative to the present leadership.

"We disagree with presenting the general as a substitute to the present leadership in Iraq, especially that he was part of all the atrocities he was complaining about," Mr. Mdanat said.

Observers say that while the three leftist parties' move does indeed signal political maturity in terms of cooperative work and pluralism, its outcome can only be judged by the DUP's performance and the difference it is hoping to make where democracy is concerned, starting with how it will deal with the diversities among its own members.

puty.

The centrist parties in 1992 formed a committee of 70 politicians to unite their parties.

The committee met last week under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

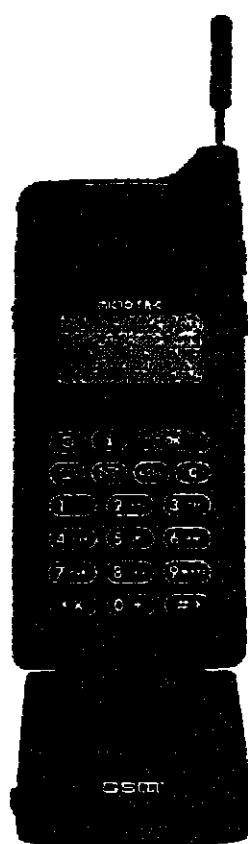
According to Dr. Majali, among the problems hindering the unification of centrist parties were financial considerations, the absence of a clearly defined programme to tackle certain issues of concern, disintegration, and personal desire for leadership among the party members.

Some participants in the meeting said that the main obstacle in the way of unity among the centrist parties was their aspiration to join the government which takes away the focus from team work towards personal considerations. One participant cited as an example the number of centrist deputies who are ministers.

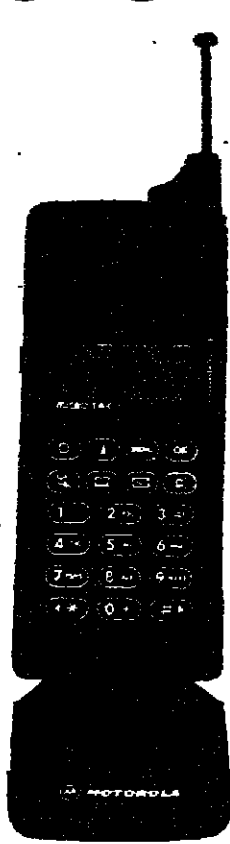
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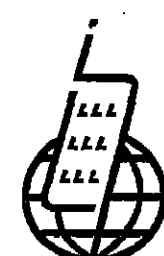
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Economy

Women want unwaged work valued and recognised

BEIJING (AFP) — Call them the invisible army — the tens of millions of women who look after households, care for elderly or disabled relatives or break the soil on family farms.

In many homes and in many economies, this force constitutes an economic backbone, but its efforts often go unpaid, and because of that, unappreciated and sometimes scorned.

Now, the U.N.'s Fourth World Women's Conference is trying to change that by agreeing on ways of measuring the work of the unseen army.

The magnitude of this contribution to the economy is enormous, the International Women's Count Network spearheading a grass-roots campaign said, as unwaged workers Monday began a second day of "silent vigil" at the conference.

"We are keeping vigil to ensure that the contact group in negotiations comes out with a clear and unambiguous statement giving our work due recognition and economic value," Network spokesperson Margaret Prescott said.

At least 80 women from several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) began the watch late Sunday as inter-governmental panels negotiated.

The 11-day conference ending Friday, which ran partly parallel to the just-concluded NGO Forum on women in Huairou, north of here, is seeking to craft a key document on action for women over the next decade.

"We want each of our work which has for far too long been hidden from official statistics, especially national income accounts, now counted and given a measure of value. We are asking for a clear and strong language in the document," Ms. Prescott told AFP.

Given a monetary valuation, women's unpaid work could amount to a staggering \$11 trillion, forming the bulk of an estimated \$16 trillion in non-monetised work by both unwaged men and women in the world, according to a report released last month by the U.N. Development Programme.

The report said two-thirds of women's work is unpaid and amounts to 70 per cent of the world's annual global output of \$23 trillion.

The draft of the Beijing conference's Platform for Action acknowledges that the value of women's unremunerated contribution to the economy... "is still often undervalued and unrecorded and therefore not reflected in current labour statistics and national accounts."

But it also contains a fudge clause that underlines the need for progress in "statistical concepts and methods of measuring unremunerated productive activity in the development of economic and social policy."

Women groups are calling for a clearer definition of measurement, saying a breakthrough in favour of unwaged workers will have a significant impact on elevating women's status.

empowering women through economic independence should be emphasised for the important role they play. Look at what happened in 1975 when women workers in Iceland took a day off and literally shut down the whole country," Phoebe Jones Schellenberg, a member of the lobbying group, said.

John Mathiasen, deputy director of the U.N.'s Division for the Advancement of Women, gave the example of subsistence farming, where very often women did most of the work — but the income from it was then accounted to the man, as deemed head of the household.

Measuring and showing the value of women's work was vital, but "is not an easy matter," he said. "If you are in a very industrialised society and you had to buy house-cleaning (services) from a company, you would pay a great deal of money. If your spouse did it, if your partner did it, be it male or female, do you assign that value as though they were a company, or do you assign some other value, and if so, what?"

The method of measurement also had "possible consequences" to international systems of accounting. "If you did count a lot of unremunerated work and you added it to the GDP (gross domestic product) accounts," he said, "The immediate effect would be to increase everyone's income. In poorer countries, that would be a distortion."

Mr. Kabbaj repeated official figures for 1994 real GDP growth, saying the 11.4 per cent rise had been exceptional because of a bumper harvest.

"We will register higher budgetary and balance of payments deficits, which could lead to inflationary pressures," Mr. Kabbaj said.

Morocco forecasts sharp decline in GDP this year

RABAT (R) — Severe drought will cut Morocco's agricultural output by more than half in 1995, leading to a four to five per cent decline in the gross domestic product (GDP), Finance Minister Mohammad Kabbaj was quoted Monday as saying.

The semi-official newspaper Le Matin du Sahara quoted Mr. Kabbaj as telling newspaper editors at a debate last Thursday that agricultural production would fall 56 per cent in 1995.

"That is why, for this year, we are unfortunately calculating negative growth in real terms," Mr. Kabbaj said. "At current prices, we are moving towards a stabilisation of GDP. However, at constant prices, the fall will be at around four to five per cent of GDP."

The government's 1995 budget, assuming an average cereals harvest, had forecast GDP growth of 2.5 per cent.

Mr. Kabbaj repeated official figures for 1994 real GDP growth, saying the 11.4 per cent rise had been exceptional because of a bumper harvest.

"We will register higher budgetary and balance of payments deficits, which could lead to inflationary pressures," Mr. Kabbaj said.

But he added the government was trying to keep prices under control and he believed price rises would be relatively modest.

Latest figures by the government showed the consumer price index rose 6.3 per cent in the first quarter of 1995 over the same period last year.

Mr. Kabbaj said a 10 per cent rise in exports and a seven per cent rise in investments so far this year were cause for optimism.

He said the government hoped to reduce public financing of the treasury to 15 per cent by end 1995 and phase it out altogether in 1996, when reforms of the financial markets will allow the treasury to compete for funds on an open market.

Mr. Kabbaj promised an inter-bank market by the end of the year and the full convertibility of the dirham possibly by the end of 1996.

He made no reference to recent press reports of plans for devaluation. He said the government had studied the effects of a devaluation but had opted for the dirham's stability.

"In the long run, we have faith in our economy. When we examined in detail the effects of a devaluation, on exports and imports, we concluded that it would have a very negative impact on our economy. There would also be a positive impact but we found that the negative effects were far greater," Mr. Kabbaj said.

Arab Gulf states seek to exploit mineral wealth

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are considering tapping their large mineral wealth to diversify their oil-reliant economy and face a steady growth in demand due to expansion in the industrial sector.

Investment in the largely unexploited mining sector would also enable the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to cut a huge bill of mineral imports of more than \$2 billion a year, according to industry experts.

"The GCC countries have the funds to tap their non-oil mining sector. Regarding technology, they could invite foreign partners," an expert said. "Such projects are costly but they would help them cut imports and face demand. They are highly feasible given the large mineral wealth in the region."

GCC officials and businessmen are due to meet in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah in November to discuss investment in the mining sector.

The Riyadh-based GCC secretariat said the Nov. 7-8 conference, sponsored by the Saudi oil and mineral resources ministry, was intended to "identify available investment opportunities in mineral resources."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar,

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have neglected plans to develop their mineral wealth as they were engaged in building their infrastructure after oil was struck and brought immense wealth to the arid desert region.

But the six members, which control 45 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, began to concentrate on industries and other sectors after their oil earnings started to erode due to a decline in crude prices in mid-1980s.

Although they sit atop billions of tonnes of gold, iron, copper and other ores, Gulf states have invested only small funds in the mining sector, mostly in the development of materials associated with construction, the second biggest component of the gross domestic product (GDP) after oil.

According to the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), the value added in the non-oil mining sector in the GCC was estimated at around \$650 million in 1994, nearly 0.3 per cent of their GDP. This compares with around 35 per cent for the oil sector.

As a result, GCC states rely heavily on imports, which cover more than 80

kinds of minerals. GOIC figures showed such imports are valued at around \$1.4 billion a year while more than \$1 billion worth of manufactured metals and other minerals are also purchased annually.

"The GCC mineral wealth is large enough to be exploited not only in achieving self-sufficiency but in export. This would support plans to diversify their economies and ease dependence on crude sales," an industry expert said.

GCC states produce around 13 million barrels per day of oil, providing more than 80 per cent of their income. This has made their economy highly vulnerable to oil price fluctuation and created persistent deficits in their budgets.

An industrialisation drive prompted by weak crude prices has resulted in the pumping of around \$40 billion into manufacturing projects, covering mostly light products. But industrial exports of nearly \$12 billion a year are dwarfed by the oil exports of more than \$70 billion.

GOIC figures showed Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, possessed the largest mineral wealth in the region.

It has nearly 20 million tonnes of gold ore, 60 million tonnes of copper, 10 billion tonnes of phosphates and millions of tonnes of magnesium, manganese and other substances.

Neighbouring Oman is also as rich in metals as in oil, having more than 10 million tonnes of gold ore. It also has large quantities of copper, iron, tin, potassium and other metals while its chrome wealth is the biggest in the Gulf.

Syria seeks foreign investment in oil sector

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria is looking for foreign companies to invest in its oil sector, Economy and Trade Minister Mohammad Al Imadi has said.

"Syria wants to cooperate with Arab and foreign investors in the oil and gas sectors, the building of refineries and alternative energy sources such as solar energy," Dr. Imadi said, quoted by the official news agency SANA.

"We also want to cooperate with them in infrastructure projects like railways, telecommunications, electricity, water and tourism," he added.

The minister said his country's selling points included its geographical position, the size of its market, tax breaks and the freedom to take foreign currency in and out of the country.

U.S. looks to unlock potential of China's markets

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is keeping a wary eye on a mounting trade deficit with China, but hopes to tackle the growing imbalance by bringing Beijing into the global trading system and unlocking its vast markets.

Negotiations to bring China into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are moving slowly with major issues yet to be resolved, said a senior administration official. Negotiators have held some good meetings but it is uncertain whether talks can be completed this year.

"It is too soon to tell, but I must say the clock is ticking," the official, who asked not to be identified, said in an interview.

Beijing hoped to join the new World Trade Organisation, the successor to the General Agreement on

Tariffs and Trade, on more liberal trading rules allowed developing countries. But the United States, which is leading the negotiations, says China's economy is too big to allow that kind of concession.

"I think the Chinese understand that their accession is not a political act," said the official. "As much as we want them to be members, their accession has to be an economic and commercial act."

The stakes are high for the United States, which marked a record \$30 billion trade imbalance with China last year and is looking at another record breaking deficit this year. The imbalance with China is second only to the \$66 billion deficit with Japan. China has one of the world's fastest growing economies that will in the not

too-distant-future become the largest, with a growing middle class hungry for the kinds of goods enjoyed by Western consumers.

U.S. officials said that political tensions between the two countries over a Washington nod toward Taiwan and Beijing's arrest of human rights activist Harry Wu did not spill over to commercial relations.

But China sent Mr. Wu home to the United States rather than jail on spying charges and Hillary Clinton was making a trip to Beijing for a women's conference, causing some trade analysts to worry that Washington may soften on the conditions of China's participation in the WTO.

"Is the United States simply going to back off and give China easy terms of entry

because of the desire to improve the atmosphere between our two countries or is it going to demand substantial commitments by China?" asked Olin Westington, an international trade attorney.

"The Chinese need to become a part of the international trading system and live by the rules of that system, and they have a long way to go," said Dwight Perkins, director of the Harvard Insti-

tute for International Development.

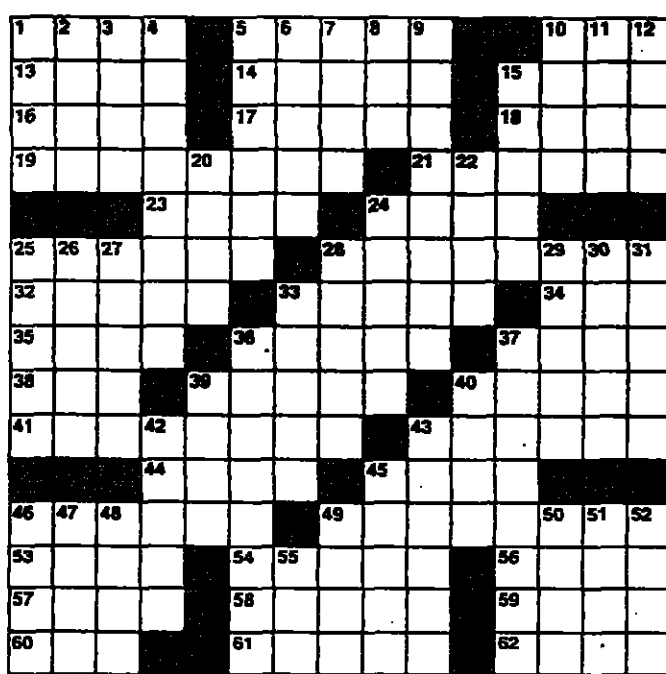
To allow such a large trader into the WTO without requiring it to play by the rules "would not be good for the world trade system," he said.

U.S. officials say they will stand their ground on insisting that China join the global trading regime on a solid economic and commercial basis.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Minish, Jr.

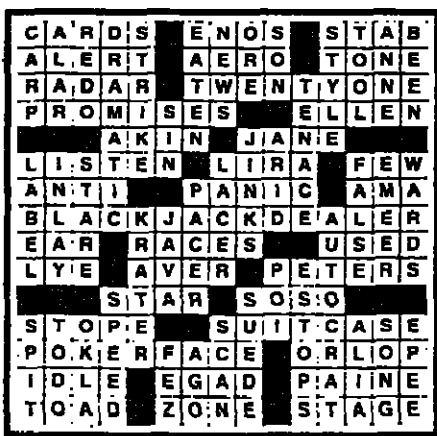
ACROSS

- 1 Sounds from the sea
- 5 Billiards shot
- 10 Double curve
- 13 European capital
- 14 — propre (vanity)
- 15 Sheet of ice
- 16 In — of
- 17 Kicks
- 18 Peerage member
- 19 Former MS senator
- 21 Regular
- 23 — glider
- 24 Take shape
- 25 "North to —" (Wayne film)
- 28 Quebec athlete
- 32 Street show
- 33 — Alegre, Brazil
- 34 Spenser heroine
- 35 The eye has it
- 36 Tithing part
- 37 Be patient
- 38 Matlock
- 39 — "Blind Mice"
- 40 "Beau —"
- 41 Batman's TV portrayal
- 43 Land of plenty
- 44 Increase
- 45 Radicle
- 46 Love apple
- 49 Maine
- 53 Merit
- 54 Practical, old style
- 56 Coolidge
- 57 Lean-to
- 58 Cultivates
- 59 Sask. neighbor
- 60 Patricia Neal film
- 61 Spartan serif
- 62 Withered



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- ### DOWN
- 1 Tree trunk
 - 2 Much of the East
 - 3 Bar servings
 - 4 — Islands
 - 5 Bathing house
 - 6 Surrounded by

- 7 Crucifix
- 8 Not at home
- 9 See 42D
- 10 Bad guy actor
- 11 Marsh bird
- 12 Vend
- 13 Nobel prize
- 14 Body of water
- 15 Church calendar
- 16 String point
- 17 Bonaire's neighbor
- 18 Washed
- 19 Sphere of interest
- 20 Certain group
- 21 Subdue
- 22 Join
- 23 Devoured
- 24 Intrinsically
- 25 "— is avenged!" (Booth)
- 26 Oaters
- 27 Taunt
- 28 Advance
- 29 With 9D.
- 30 Lockridge detectives
- 31 Greeley's advice
- 32 Norse chieftain
- 33 "Entertainment Tonight" name
- 34 With 9D.
- 35 Equine star
- 36 — pickle
- 37 — de-camp
- 38 51 North —
- 39 Earnings
- 40 Cravat

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

By Thomas S. Peterson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early this morning get into the business world and accomplish all that you have set out to do. Home and family interests are fine tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) That plan can be improved by further talks with experts and associates early today. Try to please your mate tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go along with that plan in the company of good friends, and make it a successful one and know what is expected of you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study the best way to attack a plan which can bring you greater success later today, but don't confide in others as yet.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be with persons who are cheerful and interesting and with whom you enjoy their company. Drive with utmost care this evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study how to do more efficient tasks at your career and become more prosperous. Concentrate on personal aims.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on opportunities around you which can bring you more benefits, and seize the best of such.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to talk over with experts any problematical affairs and gain fine knowledge, be more sure of yourself.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you listen to what others say, your own ideas will be accepted and you will also reach a mutual understanding.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your efficiency at work can bring you fine benefits today, then tonight get help from outsiders for your progress.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Contact as many friends as you can and set up appointments for recreation early today. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take a little time for a talk with kin and get good results, then tonight get out with good friends for recreation.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Sampras slams 24 aces to beat Agassi

NEW YORK (AP) — Knuckles bleeding, aces knifing through the whipping wind, Pete Sampras outlasted Andre Agassi to capture a third U.S. Open title Sunday and gain the No. 1 ranking in the esteem of his greatest rival, if not the rankings themselves.

Sampras spilled blood diving for a volley, rocked Agassi with 24 aces, and when they engaged in the most crucial baseline rallies beat the defending champion at his own game to win 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, two months after taking his third straight Wimbledon.

Right down to the end, when Sampras served his 142nd ace of the tournament at 120 mph, he put on brilliant show of his power, control and resilience under pressure that he dedicated to his absent and ailing coach, Tim Gulikson.

"That's for you, Timmy," Sampras said to the television camera, knowing Gulikson was watching at home in suburban Chicago. "Wish you were here."

One point, a magnificent rally of 22 shots that sent them both scurrying from side to side, made all the difference in the first set and, ultimately, the match.

A backhand crosscut by Sampras ended that rally, broke Agassi and closed a set in which Agassi had yielded only two points in his first four service games.

"That's one of the best points I've ever seen in my life," Paul Annacone, Sam-

pras' interim coach, said. "I watched it in awe, as many of the people here did."

"It's probably one of the best points I've ever been part of," Sampras said. "That was a huge point. I certainly hope it turns up on the play of the day."

"He's so quick. I felt if I could keep him moving, I could come in on a short shot. But I never really thought I had a winner until I hit that last backhand."

For Agassi, that point made him realize there was little he was going to get away with on this day.

Pete knows how to seize opportunities," Agassi said. "I ran him for 12 corners. He had to work for it, but he got it. And to think, the wind was against him there."

Agassi, who came in with a 26-match winning streak, scrambled back in the third set, capitalising on Sampras' suddenly more erratic serves and breaking him for the first time in the third game. When Agassi broke Sampras again to close the set, it seemed for a few moments he might finally wear him all the way to a fifth and raise this final to the level of the hype that preceded it.

"I thought I'd sneak my way into the fifth," Agassi said, "and roll the dice a little bit. But it didn't happen."

This match, for all of their fine rallies and all of Sampras' aces, never quite lived up to its potential.

The swirling wind on a cool afternoon made it harder for

Agassi, who counts on the timing of his groundstrokes. For Sampras, his serves cut right through the wind, and his volleys reduced the chances of the wind tossing his shots around.

Sampras bunched his aces, dealing out three in one game in the second set, four in the sixth game of the fourth set. He had aces on three of his last five serves.

"I hit an ace up the middle, and I saw John F. Kennedy Jr., Sampras said, drawing laughter. "I did. Honest to God. I said, he looks a little familiar."

Sampras looked around at the crowd another time and picked out Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"There he was," Sampras said. "The Terminator."

Agassi blamed his own weariness as much as the wind for the loss, though he gave Sampras full credit.

"It's been a long summer," Agassi said. "I had a couple of days off after Boris, which helped me. In the first set, I felt my legs... It was way too early in the match to feel that way. I was lacking a little strength. I guess you could say I didn't have pep in my step."

The official rankings mean little to either of them. What counts most are Grand Slam titles, and this year Sampras has the two biggest and Agassi only the one he grabbed back in January at the Australian Open.

"Come December 31st, he'll feel better about the



Pete Sampras (left) and Andre Agassi shake hands as they talk after their U.S. Open final match. Sampras won 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 (AP photo)

year than I will," Agassi said. "On the other hand, I'd play him for hundred bucks right now."

They played this one for much more — \$575,000 for the winner, half that for the runner-up.

"It means a lot to have been out there to try to defend it," Agassi said, "but it hurts not to win it."

Fernandez, Zvereva win 2nd Grand Slam doubles title

NEW YORK (AP) — Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva won their second U.S. Open women's doubles title Sunday, defeating Brenda Schultz-McCarthy and Rennae Stubbs 7-5, 6-3.

It was the second Grand Slam tournament title of 1995 for the winners, who also captured the crown at the French Open. They also won the U.S. Open in 1992, the first year they played together.

Fernandez, of the United States, Zvereva, of Belarus, were runners-up this year at both the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Schultz-McCarthy, a native of the Netherlands, and Stubbs, from Australia, were playing together as a team for the first time.

Ninth-seeded American Tara Snyder defeated No. 6

Annabel Ellwood of Australia 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 for the junior girls' crown. The two played in the Canadian junior championships last week, where Ellwood won in a third-set tiebreak.

Snyder was a quarterfinalist at the French Open juniors this year and reached the U.S. Open junior girls' quarterfinals last year, where she lost to eventual champion Meilen Tu.

Second-seeded Nicolas Kiefer won the all-German junior boys' final, defeating No. 8 Ulrich-Jasper Seetzen 6-3, 6-4.

Britain's Virginia Wade and Spain's Manuel Orantes teamed to capture the masters mixed doubles title, defeating Australians Wendy Turnbull and Tony Roche 7-6 (7-4), 7-5.

The women's doubles mas-

ters was won by American Kathy May and Wade, who defeated Billie Jean King of New York and Turnbull 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

Several titles were decided on Saturday.

Jong-Min Lee of South Korea and Jocelyn Robichaud of Canada took the junior boys' doubles, stopping Raemon Sluiter and Peter Wessels of the Netherlands 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, while the junior girls' doubles was won by American Corina Morariu and Ludmila Varmuzova of San Marino, 6-3, 6-3 over Anna Koumnikova of Russia and Poland's Aleksandra Olasz.

The men's 35s doubles was won by Vijay Amritraj of India and American Tim Wilkison over Johan Kriek of the United States and Britain's John Lloyd 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), and the men's 45s doubles winners were Jaime Fillo of Chile and Orantes, who beat Australians Ken Rosewall and Fred Stolle 6-3, 6-3.

On Friday, Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won the men's doubles, defeating American Alex O'Brien and Australian Sandon Stolle, Fred's son. The Woodies were U.S. open finalists in 1994, and earlier

this year won their third straight Wimbledon doubles title. They also won the Australian Open doubles in 1992.

It was the first time an all-Australian team won the U.S. Open men's doubles since 1973, when John Newcombe teamed with Owen Davidson to defeat countrymen Rod Laver, and Ken Rosewall in the title match.

Americans Meredith McGrath and Matt Lucena won the mixed doubles on Thursday, downing Fernandez and Cyril Suk of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4.

U.S. Open notebook

★ The world's top two players — Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras — will represent the United States in its Davis Cup semifinal against Sweden on Sept. 22-24.

Davis Cup captain Tom Gulikson on Sunday also named Todd Martin and Jonathan Stark to play doubles.

The Martin-Stark duo have played one ATP Tour event this year, reaching the quarterfinals at Memphis, Tennessee. They defeated the American team of Jim Grabb and Patrick McEnroe in that

event and lost to Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and Canada's Daniel Nestor.

Gulikson speculated that the Swedish team, yet to be announced, would be Thomas Enqvist, Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg and Jonas Bjorkman. He is expecting Edberg and Bjorkman to play doubles.

★ Joint agreement: The Men's Tennis Tour and the Grand Slam tournaments have reached an agreement that will change the points allocated to the Grand Slam events and the ATP Tour's super 9 level events.

The three-year agreement will elevate the Grand Slam tournaments to twice as many points as the super 9 events, as long as they offer twice the prize money.

Bonus points will be doubled for all Grand Slam tournament matches and for all tour finals that have a best-of-5-sets format.

★ Rating tennis: The overnight ratings indicated super Saturday at the U.S. Open was a super show for CBS.

From 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. EDT, the network received a 5.1 rating and a 14 share. The

rating for this time period is a 4.6 per cent increase from the 3.5 rating registered last year, according to the network.

From 5:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., CBS had a 6.8 rating and a 15 share — a 58 per cent increase from the 4.3 rating registered last year.

Each rating point represents 940,000 homes. A share is the number of televisions on at that time.

★ Warhol portrait: An original Andy Warhol portrait of 1995 Tennis Hall of Fame inductee Chris Evert has been donated to the Hall of Fame museum.

The painting, completed in 1979, will become part of the museum's permanent collection.

Richard I. Weisman, an art collector from Seattle, commissioned Warhol to paint a series of portraits of the top 10 sports figures from the late 1970s, each athlete representing a different sport. Evert and figure skater Dorothy Hamill were the two women selected.

Weisman donated the painting to the International Tennis Hall of Fame museum.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italy humiliated by Cyprus

ROME (R) — Favourites Italy, who fielded a team made up mostly of Serie A professionals, had four men sent off in a 2-1 shock defeat by Cyprus in a world Military Games match that had the referee running for cover. The shock elimination on Saturday night was a disaster for Italy, who had made the soccer tournament their showcase event and fielded several internationals. The Italian News Agency Ansa reported the Dutch referee had to run for cover immediately after the final whistle as fans threw full bottles and stones at him.

Becker asks for tax refund

BONN (AFP) — Boris Becker, the tennis star, has filed suit against German tax authorities for the return of four million German marks (\$2.8 millions) he claims he was illegally forced to pay, according to the newspaper Der Spiegel. The German former world number one says he was taxed on income from a Dutch-based company TTVI, founded by his former manager Ton Tinac. According to a report which will appear in Monday's edition of Der Spiegel, Becker, who was based in the tax-heaven of Monaco until the birth of his son Noah-Gabriel two years ago, maintains in his suit that income from a foreign-based company should be exempt for German taxes. Tax authorities refused tax exemption on the grounds that the firm was set up to avoid German taxes and the case will be heard by a Cologne court.

Carling heads for Arc

PARIS (R) — Carling booked her passage for next month's Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe after the French Oaks winner claimed her second group one success of the season in the Prix Vermeille at Longchamp on Sunday. Trained by Madame Corinne Barbe, Carling was held up in mid-division by Thierry Thulliez, but after striking the front 300 metres out, the filly went on to score by a comfortable length from Valley of Gold, the mount of Thierry Jarnet. Later in the day, the group three Prix Foy was won by last year's Arc hero Carnegie, who outbattled 1994 Epsom Oaks and Irish Derby winner Balanchine by a short head in a thrilling finish.

Everton winger out for 10 weeks

LIVERPOOL (AP) — Andrei Kanchelskis is likely to be out of action for 10 weeks after dislocating his shoulder playing for Everton Saturday against his former club Manchester United. The Russian international winger fell heavily after being tackled by United's Lee Sharpe and left the field after only 12 minutes of the game at Goodison Park. United won the game 3-2. "Andrei will be having an operation tonight and he'll be out for eight to 10 weeks," said Everton manager Joe Royle. "I think he's dislocated the shoulder bone but he's also torn a few tendons and other things around it. The surgeon feels it's better if we have it pinned and have the operation tonight."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TANNAN HOUSE
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HOW GOOD ARE YOU?

Both vulnerable. South deals. Is certainly the most practical. If you win the ace of hearts and lead a trump to West's ace, then you have the heart queen of hearts con- quation and draw the remaining trumps, you fall into the "beginner" category. When diamonds break 4-2, you must concede a trick in the suit for down one. Move up a grade if, after taking the ace of hearts at trick one, you cashed the ace and king of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and then led a trump. Unlucky. Since the hand with the fourth diamond also has the ace of spades, all West has to do is play another diamond and East's ruff settles the slam. The sure-trick line, barring a disastrous diamond split, is to win the ace of hearts, cash the ace and king of diamonds, trump a diamond and return to hand with a ruff. Now lead another diamond and ruff with the remaining trump and you can lose no more than one trump trick. How can you improve your game? If you find a good teacher in your area, that's fine. But declarer play is a learning process that requires practice, practice, practice.

WEST EAST
♠ A ♠ 432
♥ K ♠ 1065
♦ Q ♠ 98
♣ 10 ♠ 75
♣ K ♠ 62
♣ A ♠ 762

SOUTH
♠ Q ♠ 109876
♥ A ♠ 432
♦ A ♠ 62
♣ A ♠ 762

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
5♠ Pass 5♠ Pass
6♠ Pass 6♠ Pass
7♠ Pass 7♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣
If you were asked by someone to rate your play, would you answer "beginner," "intermediate" or "expert"? This hand might help you judge. You have learned our admiration if you know that South's opening bid of five spades asks partner to raise to six holding either the ace or king of the suit, or bid seven with both. That might not be the scientific way to handle the holding, but it

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1991 Ford / Taurus, 6 cylinders, 3.0 liter. automatic, loaded, excellent condition, American plate & specifications. Price: US\$ 6,000 negotiable. Please call: 651413, 658221, Taisir

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES
The Language Centre at the University of Jordan. announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on September 16, 1995 and will last for 16 weeks. Classes are in the morning, 9:00 - 12:30, Saturday - Wednesday. Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration or further information. Registration begins on Sunday Sept. 10, 1995 and ends on Saturday Sept. 16.

SECOND FLOOR OF A VILLA FOR RENT

3 large bedrooms with built-in cupboards, maid's room, large living area, closed veranda, study, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, (290 sq.m.) (unfurnished). Location: Two blocks before Philadelphia Hotel. Telephone: From 9:00 hrs./13:00 hrs. 639442. After 14:00 hrs. 690548

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

Seeks applications from a suitably qualified Middle and Senior School (Grades 6-12) Drama Teacher for the academic year 1995/1996.

Applicants should:

- 1- be bilingual, in English and Arabic
 - 2- have a university degree
- * Preference will be given to candidates with relevant experience.
* Teachers who have already applied this year do not need to apply again.

Application forms may be obtained from the school's reception desk, phone 845572, 847191 - 2 - 3 and should be submitted by Saturday 16 September 1995.

DUTY FREE CARS FOR SALE

1- Volvo GLE 940 (2300 cc) model 1995, dark grey colour, full options, with a telephone (G.S.M) Nokia, price JD 17,500.
2- Opel Vectra, (2000 cc) model 1994, burgundy colour, price JD 8,600. Please call Tel. 699829.

FOR RENT DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT

The apartment is opposite AMRA Hotel. It consists of: Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, L shape sitting dining rooms, fully equipped kitchen and washing room, with separate telephone and central heating. Reference: Tel: 812229 / 668505

HOUSE FOR RENT

Second floor of a villa, consisting of three bedrooms, three salons, two bathrooms, kitchen, located in Jabal Amman, Fourth Circle. independent utilities available, with central heating and telephone. please call Tel. 641378, 641747.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consists of three bedrooms and utilities. Located in Shmeisani, near Safeway, second floor with lift. The apartment is in excellent condition and rent is annual. Please call Tel. 643133.

MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, large living room, completely furnished, with telephone, television and central heating. Location: Between the Fourth & Fifth Circles, Jabal Amman, near Amn Hotel. Tel: 777112 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 674028 after 4 p.m.

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Adel Imam & Yusra

Birds of the Darkness (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420

CONCORD

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Birds of the Darkness (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45

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Abeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali

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Nabil & Hisham's TEL: 625155

AHLAN THEATRE

presents (Ahlam Tatbee)

Welcome Normalisation

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Platini, Zico and Keegan join Beckenbauer charity match

MUNICH (R) — Some of the biggest names in world soccer turned out on Sunday to help Franz Beckenbauer celebrate his 50th birthday with a charity match in Munich's Olympic Stadium.

The team sheet for the game, which pitted a world 11 against a German select, read like a "who's who" of the international game over the last 30 years. The Kaiser, who actually turns 50 on Monday, played one half with each side.

It ended 8-8 in normal time, with the world team winning 4-2 on penalties. But the score was less important than the occasion as proceeds from the match were going to a charity Beckenbauer founded for children in need.

Inevitably, Beckenbauer scored with a spectacular volley in the 69th minute to the delight of the 20,000-strong crowd, which included an array of prominent German figures from sport, show business and politics.

France's former midfield maestro Michel Platini and Brazilian Zico joined British stars Kenny Dalglish, Kevin Keegan and George Best in the world select.

Beckenbauer's successor as German national coach, Berti Vogts, lined up for the German side with Uwe Seeler, Gerd Mueller and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Mueller, Zico, Seeler and Rummenigge were all on target along with former Cameroon striker Roger Milla.

But Austria's Hans Krank scored the pick of the bunch with a stunning long-range shot. Platini, Keegan and Zico turned back the clock with some dazzling pieces of skill to show the old magic has not deserted them.

The night was an emotional one for Beckenbauer, who is now president of Bayern Munich. He captained Germany to victory in the 1974 World Cup final in the same stadium. Uniquely, he was also coach of the German 1990 World Cup-winning side.

Jalabert stuns tour rivals

AVILA, Spain (R) — Laurent Jalabert produced one of cycling's most stunning performances on Sunday to win the eighth stage of the Tour of Spain by three minutes 16 seconds.

The Frenchman began to earn comparisons with the sport's finest after stretching his overnight race lead over second-placed Abraham Olano of Spain from a mere six seconds to five minutes three seconds.

Known primarily as a sprinter, Jalabert proved emphatically he could be invincible on mountain terrain as well, leaving trailing such as Tour de France mountain King Richard Virenco and tough climber Marco Pantani.

The increasingly versatile rider with Spain's Once team found a weak moment on Olano's steady march up the Seranillos and attacked about 60 kms from the finish.

Italian Roberto Poggiani responded for a time, but soon lost sight of the Frenchman, whose famed compatriot Bernard Hinault also made a decisive move 12 years ago on the same terrain to take control of the 1983 tour.

Earlier in the gruelling stage, Jalabert had hinted that this was to be a big moment, getting a five-second bonus over the first mountain pass.

"He's looking unbeatable, he's just as strong as Miguel Indurain was during the Tour of France," said Spanish rider Felix Garcia Casas after Jalabert's brilliant performance.

The Frenchman came home in six hours five minutes one second, with pistole a battling second. The main Peloton, including Olano, trailed in 4:40 behind the winner.

Jalabert's third stage win of the tour did not change the make-up of the top five, but did widen dramatically the margins.

Belgian Johan Bruyneel is third overall at 6:15 with Spain's Melchor Mauri at 6:30 and Bjarne Rijs of Denmark at 6:50.

The 154-km ninth stage on Monday between Avila and Destilerias is shorter, but still billy enough to test Jalabert's new brilliance. The tour ends in Madrid on September 24.

Taffarel leaves national squad

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Thirteen months ago he was a hero, hailed by his countrymen as one of conquerors of World Cup 1994.

A South American championship and what he considered endless criticism later, Brazilian national team keeper Claudio Taffarel has told his country he wants no more.

The Rio daily O Globo confirmed his retirement in its Saturday edition with the blaring headline: "Taffarel abandons national squad."

Taffarel said he had had it with critics, especially Brazilian federation President Ricardo Teixeira, who publicly blamed him for Brazil's penalty-kick loss to Uruguay in the Copa America final in July.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the match, Uruguay tied the match on a second-half free kick — a shot Teixeira and others have said Taffarel should have gotten to.

"When you hear from your president that you couldn't have allowed a goal, that's all failed on that goal, you get even more upset," Taffarel said in an interview broadcast by TV Globo.

The retirement ended an international career that began at the 1987 Pan American Games. Taffarel defended Brazil's net in qualifying and at the 1990 World Cup, where the team was eliminated in the second round by arch-rival Argentina and was highly criticised.

Despite all the blame directed at the team, Taffarel was one of the few singled out for praise.

He joined Parma AC in Italy and after an inconsistent few seasons, was benched in 1993.

Many were surprised when Brazilian manager Carlos Alberto Parreira called on him to start in Brazil's World Cup qualifying matches in 1993, saying if he couldn't earn a starting job for his club, why should he start for the national team.

Parreira continued to start Taffarel even after Brazil suffered its first-ever qualifying loss, 2-0 Bolivia.

Monaco and Leeds clash in star-studded UEFA Cup

PARIS (R) — Ambitious Monaco and former English champions Leeds clash on Tuesday in the first round of the UEFA Cup, featuring most of Europe's finest clubs of the past decade.

"With Barcelona, AC Milan and other clubs, the UEFA Cup is just as hard as the European Cup this season, if not harder," said Monaco defender Eric Di Meo, who could also have mentioned Bayern Munich and Manchester United.

Those big names look set for an easy start and one of the most interesting first-round matches will be the one between the club from the principality and the Yorkshire side.

The 1992 English champions showed worrying weaknesses in defence when they suffered their first defeat of the season, 2-1 at Tottenham in the Premier League on Saturday.

"I think we will make the same mistakes again I am not going to sleep very much the night before," said Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson.

Monaco trainer Jean Tigana, whose team lost 2-1 to Paris St. Germain in the French League on Saturday, said he counted chiefly on Belgian playmaker Enzo Scifo and dangerous Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson for the first leg match in Monaco.

"Leeds are a very strong and efficient team who put you under pressure," he said. "But we will not be too worried. We respect Leeds but in Anderson and Scifo we feel we have match-winners."

The two other English clubs involved in the UEFA Cup, Liverpool and Manchester United, travel to Russia to meet Rotor Volgograd and Spartak Vladikavkaz respectively.

"Some people say the European Cup is the difficult one to win but when you look at the standards of the teams in the UEFA Cup this year, it really would be a tremendous achievement if we could win it," said United manager Alex Ferguson, whose team failed to reach the quarter-finals of the European Cup last season.

France will have a record six teams in the competition with Bordeaux and Strasbourg, who qualified through the new Intertoto Cup, joining Auxerre, Lens, Lyon and Monaco.

Italy, traditionally the

dominant force in the UEFA Cup, will also have a strong presence with four sides including former European champions AC Milan.

UEFA Cup holders Parma, who beat arch rivals Juventus in last May's final, are in the Cupwinner's Cup this season.

For internationale and AS Roma, Tuesday's trips to Switzerland have assumed a do-or-die flavour following Sunday league defeats to Parma and Atalanta.

Inter coach Ottavio Bianchi, already under media pressure before the season began, badly needs a good result when Inter travel just a few kilometres across the border to play Lugano.

While Inter may ring the changes, their three foreign stars — English midfielder Paul Ince, Brazilian left back Roberto Carlos and Argentine defender Javier Zanetti — seem certain to play.

Baggio pays off for Milan; Arsenal win

ROME (AP) — Roberto Baggio's first goal with AC Milan gave the red and black a tough 2-1 win over upstart Udinese on Sunday to keep pace with defending champion Juventus atop the Italian First-Division standings.

Baggio, the summer's most expensive transfer, headed home a cross from French striker George Weah five minutes from time to snuff the upset hopes of Udinese, promoted this year from Serie B.

Inter, which beat promoted Piacenza 4-0 on Gianluca Vialli's two goals, Lazio, which won 1-0 over Cagliari, and Milan are the only clubs with unblemished 2-0-0 records in the early going.

AC Parma knocked Inter Milan from the ranks of the unbeaten late Sunday, rallying in the second half for a 2-1 victory.

In two surprises, promoted clubs Atalanta and Vicenza had 1-0 victories over AS Roma and Fiorentina, respectively.

In other matches: Napoli beat Padova 2-0; Torino defeated Bari 3-1; and Cremonese and Sampdoria of Genoa drew 0-0.

Milan 2, Udinese 1: At Milan, Baggio, who had an assist in Milan's first-round victory and added three more in the club's Italian Cup victory last week, displayed the flair for the dramatic goal that earned him the 1993 Golden Ball Award.

The hosts took the lead in the 10th minute, when Udinese sweeper Raffaella Sergio attempted to clear a dangerous cross with a header but put the ball in his own net. Forward Paolo Poggi equalised in the 60th, before Weah and Baggio teamed for the winner.

Juventus 4, Piacenza 0: At Piacenza, Vialli scored in the 45th and 85th minutes and Juve shut out Piacenza for the fourth straight time. The first goal concluded a counterattack orchestrated by Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa. Defender Moreno Torricelli's first career goal made it 2-0 in the 60th, and Fabrizio Ravanello took the league scoring lead with his third of the season in the 73rd.

Lazio 1, Cagliari 0: At Cagliari, Giuseppe Signori's rising blast from 14 metres (yards) in the 22nd minute was all Lazio needed as the home side's attack was silenced for the second straight league match.

Atalanta 1, Roma 0: At Roma, where Atalanta beat Roma for just the second

time in 39 matches, striker Christian Vieri scored off a penalty kick in the 50th minute after Sandro Tonalieri was fouled by midfielder Francesco Statuto.

Vicenza 1, Fiorentina 0: At Vicenza, surprise starter Maurizio Rossi's first Serie A goal, in the 67th minute, gave Vicenza its 11th straight home victory dating back to last season. Fiorentina's Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta, who opened last season with a goal in a record 11 straight matches, was held scoreless for the second week.

Farma 2, Inter 1: At Parma, Italian internationals Gianfranco Zola and Dino Baggio scored five minutes apart early in the second half to rally the hosts to their first victory of the season.

Inter went ahead in the 42nd minute when Brazilian international Roberto Carlos scored his third goal in as many matches, rotating to slam home a bouncing ball. The defender has tallied all Inter's goals in its Italian Cup victory and two league games. But Zola's long drive found net in the 47th and Baggio struck the winner in the 52nd.

Napoli 2, Padova 0: At Naples, where Padova had never lost before, midfielder Fabio Pecchia scored in the ninth minute and forward Massimo Agostini doubled in the 69th.

Torino 3, Bari 1: At Turin, Turkish striker Hakan Sukur's header off a corner kick put Torino ahead to stay in the 65th minute. The hosts led 1-0 in the 23rd on Bari sweeper Gianluca Ricci's own-goal, but striker Igor Protti brought Bari level in the 42nd.

Striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli sealed the game with a penalty kick in the 87th, after he was fouled by Ricci.

Cremonese 0, Sampdoria 0: At Cremona, Sampdoria blew several scoring opportunities late in the match, with Christian Karemben and captain Roberto Mancini each sending close-range blasts wide.

Compostela upsets Deportivo 4-0

In Madrid, Brazilian midfielder Fabiano scored twice as Compostela shocked heavily favoured Deportivo La Coruna 4-0 Sunday, continuing the upset trend in the early going of the Spanish League.

Deportivo's loss followed

defending champion Real Madrid's surprising 2-1 loss at home to Athletic Bilbao and Merida's 2-2 draw with Barcelona, which needed an 87th-minute goal to equalise, both on Saturday.

At Compostela, Fabiano gave the hosts the lead when he chipped in a deft pass from Christopher Oden, of Nigeria to score at the 20th minute and midfielder Jose Ramon Gonzalez added to the lead with a 37th-minute header off a cross from Jose Ignacio "Nacho" Fernandez.

Compostela continued to dominate in the second half, with Fabiano scoring his second in the opening minute past stunned Deportivo keeper Juwan Garrido Canales.

Oden finished with a goal of his own, breaking in on Canales alone and beating the onrushing keeper, who had come off his line.

In other matches Sunday, it was Oviedo 2, Rayo Vallecano 0; Real Sociedad 2, Sporting Gijon 0; Valencia 1, Valladolid Salamanca 0; Celta 1; Espanyol 4, Tenerife 1.

In Saturday's other games: Betis 3, Zaragoza 1; and Albacete 3, Sevilla 2.

Atletico 4, Racing 0: In Santander, Luboslav Mladenov Penev scored twice, in the third and 89th minutes, to give Atletico its second straight victory and move it to the top of the first division of the first time in four years.



Dennis Bergkamp of Arsenal (L) tangles with Keith Curle on Manchester City in their sides Premier League game, on Sunday. The final score was a 1-0 win for Arsenal (Reuters photo)

European Soccer Roundup

After falling behind 2-0 on Jose Luis Perez's fifth-minute goal, racing killed any chance to rally by having two players sent off early in the second half. With the two-man advantage, Atletico went ahead 3-0 on Diego Simeone's 85th-minute tally.

Oviedo 2, Rayo Vallecano 0: In Asturias, Pedro Alberto Cano Arenas gave Oviedo the lead in the 20th minute and Jesus Alvarez Gonzalez added the insurance two minutes before halftime to lead Oviedo.

Real Sociedad 2, Sporting Gijon 0: In San Sebastian, Real Sociedad midfielder Valeri Karpin scored late in each half to lead Sociedad. The Estonian scored in the 35th minute and again with two minutes remaining.

Valencia 1, Valladolid 0: In Valencia, Jose Galvez Estevez scored in the 59th minute to lift Valencia, which enjoyed a man advantage for the final 24 minutes.

Celta 1, Salamanca 0: In Salamanca, Yugoslavian striker Goran Milosevic scored in the 65th minute to give Celta

the victory and hand promoted Salamanca its second loss.

Espanyol 4, Tenerife 1: In Tenerife, Moises "Artega" Garcia Fernandez and Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu scored a minute apart to give Espanyol a 2-0 lead by the 21st minute. Victor Manuel Fernandez Gutierrez pulled Tenerife within a goal in the 60th minute, but Jordi Lardin Cruz restored the lead eight minutes later before Paraguayan Miguel Angel Benitez Paven completed the victory.

Wright strikes in last seconds

In London, Ian Wright struck with a close range diving header four seconds from the end of regulation time Sunday to give Arsenal a 1-0 victory at last place Manchester City.

The England striker dived to meet a well-placed right wing cross from Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp to beat German goalkeeper Eike Immel from four yards (metres). The goal gave unbeaten Arsenal all three points which moved the Gunners up five places to sixth in the standings.

The result leaves City stranded at the foot only one point from its first five games of the campaign, the team's worst start for 23 years.

Wright was unfortunate not to score before half time when he powered a 25-yard shot goalwards only for Immel to palm over the bar.

Arsenal now has two victories and three ties from its first five games. Nottingham Forest, one victory and four ties, is the only other unbeaten team of the 20 Premier League clubs with Newcastle and Manchester United, both with four victories and one defeat, heading the standings with 12 points.

In a division one game Sunday, Leicester gained a 1-0 victory at neighbouring Derby to move to the top of the standings, the goal coming from England under 21 forward Julian Joachim.

Celtic won 3-2 at Aberdeen to join Rangers atop the Scottish Premier League with two goals from midfielder John Collins and another from German forward Andreas Thom.

Rangers, which downed Raith 4-0 on Saturday, leads the standings on goal difference but the two Glasgow clubs are the only ones with 100 records from their first two games.

Kanu puts Ajax on top

Ajax Amsterdam recaptured the lead of the Dutch first division on Sunday, beating Sparta Rotterdam 4-0 despite the absence of international striker Patrick Kluijver who was hurt the night before in a car crash.

Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu, who replaced Kluijver, scored twice in the first 21 minutes and Marc Overmars and substitute Martijn Reuser added the others to give Ajax maximum nine points from three games and put them ahead of Willem II Tilburg on goal difference.

Kluijver was slightly injured in Saturday's car accident in which the driver of the other vehicle was killed and a female passenger seriously hurt.

Kanu netted the first goal in the fifth minute. He put Overmars clear with only goalkeeper Edward Metgod to beat and, when the World Cup winger failed to put the chance away, pounced to score from the rebound.

In the 21st minute Kanu headed in a corner from fellow Nigerian Finidi George.

Six minutes before half-time Overmars escaped on the left and scored in the far corner to make it 3-0. Moments before the end of the same substitute midfielder Reuser completed the scoring.

Feyenoord Rotterdam conceded a goal in the second minute but bounced back to rout Volendam 5-1.

Volendam defender Elroy Kromheer opened the scoring for the visitors but seven minutes later Feyenoord, were awarded a questionable penalty after Volendam's Serbian Ivan Vukov was judged to have handled in the penalty area.

Ronald Koeman, who had missed from the spot in Feyenoord's opening match against Vitesse Arnhem, failed again when his spot-kick was blocked by Volendam goalkeeper Edwin Zoetebier.

Kromheer turned from hero to villain when he helped Feyenoord equalise in the 15th minute with an own goal from a misjudged back-pass.



Argentinian Nestor Sensini of Parma (C), fights for possession of the ball with Italian Massimo Paganini, of Inter, during their Italian First Division match September on Sunday. British soccer player Paul Ince watches on (L). Parma defeated Inter 2-1 (Reuters photo)

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Palestinians expelled from Libya remain stranded at sea, land

CAIRO (Agencies) — Thousands of Palestinians expelled by Libya to punish their leaders for making peace with Israel remain stranded at sea and on the Egyptian-Libyan border while Arab leaders mediate to end their plight, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said on Monday.

Busloads of Palestinians have been coming to the Al Saloum border point between Egypt and Libya for the past two months and some of them are crossing Egypt under escort to Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

"(Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi has opened camps to gather the Palestinians in Libya. He has sent some of the people by sea to Lebanon and others by land to Egypt," Mohammad Subeih, the Palestinian ambassador to the Arab League, told Reuters.

Travelers returning from Libya said the Libyan authorities were gathering the Palestinians in the eastern port of Benghazi and the capital Tripoli in preparation for more expulsions.

In Gaza City, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the Libya's decision to expel Palestinian workers is a "crime."

"This is a new tragedy for the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat told journalists after a meeting with Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

"We appeal to the whole world to halt the crime against 50,000 Palestinians," Mr. Arafat said. An estimated 30,000 Palestinians live in Libya.

Mr. Gonzalez urged Colonel Qadhafi to change his mind.

"We share Mr. Arafat's opinion that the Libyan measures are unjust," the prime minister said.

"I say to Mr. Qadhafi that the Europeans are united in asking him to put off these measures," Spain currently holds the rotating European presidency.

Palestinian opposition leaders are in Libya to urge Tripoli to reverse the decision, sources said in Damascus.

A delegation of 10 Palestinian opposition groups based in Damascus has met with Abu Bakr Yunes Jaber, the head of Libya's military forces. But they have yet to hold talks with Col. Qadhafi, the Palestinian sources said.

They are asking Col. Qadhafi to "change his decision, which goes against the interests of the Palestinian people and condemns them to a new exodus," the sources said.

The delegation includes Col. Abu Musa, head of the Fateh-Intifada, and Fadi Shurru, a member of parliament of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

No final figures were available for the number deported since Col. Qadhafi began to translate into action his view that the 30,000 Palestinians in Libya should go back to their homeland.

He says other Arab countries should follow suit, in a dramatic gesture to show the world that Palestinians gained nothing from self-rule agreements between Israel and the PLO.

Arab League sources said 4,000 had gone by ship to Lebanon over the past two weeks in addition to several hundred pushed to the Egyptian border.

The Lebanese authorities turned back more than half of those Palestinians who arrived in two ships last week because they did not carry Lebanese documents. Only 400 were allowed in.

On Friday, the Beirut government decided to halt all maritime transport from Libya to prevent it sending the deported Palestinians. Some 350 Palestinians with Lebanese travel documents returned to Lebanon from Libya last week.

"I hope that the issue of the Palestinians will not become like that of the Cubans and Vietnamese — ships stranded in the middle of the sea," Mr. Subeih said in Cairo.

About 200 Palestinians were deported by Libya to the Egyptian border on Sunday.

He said the council would



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Tuesday chairs a cabinet meeting in Madaba during which the government heard demands of the local residents and adopted several measures to help develop the region (photo by Yusef Allan)

Cabinet, meeting in Madaba, hears demands, adopts steps to help region

MADABA (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday urged the residents of Madaba Governorate to encourage their young men and women to take up vocational training which help them find employment.

Addressing a cabinet meeting attended also by heads of local departments, mayors as well as Governor Abdul Qader Hababbeh, Sharif Zeid called on the parents to encourage their children to opt for vocational rather than academic courses after secondary education so that they can find jobs immediately after their training instead of taking up academic courses and waiting years to get employment in government departments.

Sharif Zeid said he was instructing the minister of tourism and antiquities to establish a regional tourism council in Madaba to raise the standard of tourism services.

He said the council would help encourage interaction among the local residents in carrying out tourism projects to attract visitors to archaeological sites within the governorate.

Sharif Zeid announced that the government was assigning a plot of land to set up modern sports facilities in the governorate.

The health ministry will conduct a feasibility study for erecting a hospital in the nearby Thibban district.

Sharif Zeid said that he was instructing the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to report to the government about the prospects of building a dam at Waleh and the Ministry of Culture to set up a cultural centre in the city.

The government is making allocations for the municipalities and will make other allocations for Madaba clubs and societies.

He said that the government was keen on protecting the environment from pollution and was working through the Ministry of Municipal and

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and other sectors.

Also on Monday, Sharif Zeid inaugurated an electrification project for 11 villages in the Mleith district near Madaba.

Addressing a ceremony held on the occasion, acting Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Abu Oleim said that the government has now completed the electrification of 95 per cent of the first phase of a programme which will end by November when 246 villages will have electricity.

The first phase, which will supply electricity to 9,463 homes in the rural regions, was expected to cost JD 16,818,000, said the minister.

The programme is being implemented by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

Dr. Abu Oleim said that the first phase of the programme entailed providing electricity to 35 villages in the Madaba Governorate at the cost of JD 1.876 million.

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Thai boy kills child over bicycle

BANGKOK (R) — An 11-year-old Thai boy clubbed a five-year-old boy to death after the younger boy refused to give him his bicycle, police said Monday. The boy then buried his victim and hid the bicycle. Police in the western province of Kanchanaburi said. The boy later confessed after being questioned by police and the younger boy's father about the incident, which occurred Sunday, they added. The boy has been placed in the custody of a juvenile court, pending a hearing, police said.

Turkish farmer tries to shoot out sore tooth, dies

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish farmer killed himself when he tried to shoot out an aching tooth, police said. "While drinking with friends, he had been complaining of toothache and said he would shoot it out," a police source from the Western province of Edirne told Reuters by telephone. "The bullet went in his mouth and out of the top of his head," he said. "The incident happened in (Edirne) district of Uzunkopru." Ismail Ayyildiz, 33, died in hospital from head wounds inflicted by his own handgun, a hospital spokesman said.

Nancy Kerrigan weds

BOSTON (R) — Olympic figure skating medalist Nancy Kerrigan married her agent, Jerry Solomon, in a union that merged two of in sports promotion. Wearing a white satin gown with veil and train, Kerrigan posed with Solomon for photographers but said nothing to a crowd of some 300 fans as they emerged from the Church of the Covenant on Boston's upscale Newbury Street in the Back Bay section. Some 230 guests attended the 35-minute, non-denominational ceremony, among them former Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine and Paul Yie, Kerrigan's sometimes skating partner.

Lennon's sketchbook goes on sale

LONDON (R) — John Lennon's teenage sketchbook, complete with a self-portrait of the late Beatle squeezing his spots, could fetch £100,000 (\$154,500) at a London sale, auctioneers Sotheby's said. Fans of Lennon will also have a chance to buy his bathroom suite complete with black marble bidet at the sale next Thursday. "People will buy strange things," a Sotheby's spokesman said as the items were put on display for would-be buyers. Also on show was Paul McCartney's lyric sheet, complete with corrections, for the song "Get Back" from the Sergeant Pepper album.

Angry bees scatter Malawi mourners

BLANTYRE, Malawi (R) — Mourners attending a funeral in Malawi stripped off their clothes or fled when a swarm of angry African bees attacked their procession, the Malawi News reported. The headman in Thyolo district, near Blantyre, said the bees attacked about 200 people at the funeral of a 98-year-old woman. Mourners fled in every direction. A group of women stripped naked to brush off the bees and 20 people were left unconscious. "Nobody was interested to go back to the graveyard to bury the body until six young men volunteered to go back in the evening," he was quoted as saying.

Libya herds Africans into camps

SALLOUM (AFP) — Libya is targeting illegal African workers, herding them into large deportation camps after forcing thousands of Egyptians to flee the country, Egyptian travellers said here Monday.

"The exodus in the past day in Salloom of thousands of Egyptians who had no work contracts as well as hundreds of Palestinians was almost over Monday," a border guard at Salloom told AFP, asking to remain anonymous.

"Today, a few hundred Egyptians crossed the border, which is the normal pace," he said.

Several travellers told AFP that "almost all the Egyptians" whose papers were not in order had been expelled from the area of Sirte up to the northeastern town of Benghazi to the Mediterranean.

Some 7,000 illegal Egyptian workers have fled Libya over the past few days, joining 3,000 who were expelled in August.

Now the Libyan police was reported to be hunting down other African nationals.

"They have collected together in camps African nationals, mainly Sudanese,

ready to repatriate them," an Egyptian traveller said.

Libyan diplomat in Cairo told AFP that authorities in his country "were continuing to arrest and regroup in camps African and Sudanese nationals whose papers are not in order."

Libyan Interior Minister Mohammad Higazi said Sunday that four camps had been set up to gather together African infiltrators living illegally in Libya to prepare for their expulsion. Some 60,000 people had been detained, he said.

Press spokesman at the Sudanese embassy in Cairo, Sudanese Abdul Tawab, said Monday that the "Sudanese nationals coming from Libya have been returning en masse to Sudan for the past five days." But he gave up figures.

The measure would also "help security in Egypt. Libya will never let extremist elements infiltrate into Egypt across its territory," a Libyan diplomat said.

Egypt has accused Sudan of being behind a failed attack on President Hosni Mubarak on June 26 in Addis Ababa.

The Libyan diplomat said that expulsions had been in-

troduced after the attack and "in coordination with the Egyptian authorities."

The Egyptian nationals, even those who are illegal, have not been pestered by the authorities. There are still Egyptian traders selling in the streets who don't have a work contract," he said.

Tripoli has stepped up the expulsion of Arab and African foreign workers since troubles erupted in Benghazi on Wednesday in which 20 Islamic militants and 10 police were reported to have died. Libya has denied any unrest took place.

About 900,000 Egyptians work in Libya along with 500,000 Chadians, Somalis, Moroccans and citizens of Niger.

Meanwhile, 11 Palestinian families expelled from Libya have spent six days camped at the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing into the Gaza Strip, relatives said.

They have visitor's permits issued by Israel to enter the Gaza Strip, but the Jewish authorities fear they will stay permanently after being thrown out by Libya and have refused them entry, they added.

France holds 40 in swoops, but key suspect is missing

PARIS (Agencies) — Police hunting a young Algerian suspected of planting a terrorist bomb detained 40 people linked to Islamic groups Monday after a series of raids in the Paris area and southwestern France, police sources said.

The raids targeted "Islamic radicals and marginal elements who might be helping them and belong to secret terrorist networks," the interior ministry said.

A senior police officer suggested Monday that extremists were recruiting disaffected young men of North African origin living in deprived areas.

In the suburbs of Paris, police raided housing estates with a reputation as flashpoints, but did not discover any explosives or detonators. However, police sources said the operation had been fruitful in that it had "stirred up an ants' nest."

During the raids in the Paris area the police seized a number of weapons, forged documents, suspect vehicles, video cassettes and documents, the interior ministry said.

In the Grenoble area, where four people were detained, police concentrated on a hostel for North African

workers at Villeneuve. Reports had said that Khaled Kelkal, 24, had recently stayed at the hostel, which houses 410 North African workers.

Kelkal's fingerprints were found on an unexploded bomb left last month on a high-speed railway line near Lyon in southeast France.

Kelkal, who has a criminal record and served part of a four-year prison sentence for robbing motorists after ramming their cars, is also sought by police in connection with a shoot-out near Lyon in July in which five policemen were wounded.

More than 100 police took part in the swoop on the hostel at Villeneuve, sealing it off for two and a half hours. No arrests were made and identity checks succeeded only in turning up two people whose papers were not in order.

Several hostel residents said they found such checks normal.

On Saturday, police missed Kelkal during a sweep in Lyon where he lives.

Seven people have been killed and more than 130 injured in the bombings, attributed by the authorities to Algerian Muslim extremists and sympathisers recruited in

France's depressed big city immigrant suburbs.

In the Paris region, the interior ministry said some 200 policemen and intelligence officers raided 33 "addresses" that may have served as refuge for members of networks linked to the (Algerian) Islamic Armed Group (GIA).

It said 40 people were detained and several weapons, false identity documents and suspect vehicles seized.

President Jacques Chirac on Sunday accused the police of "disorder" in the hunt for the bombers and vowed to wage an all-out war on terrorism.

"We will not win this war against terrorists without perfectly harmonious and coherent action," he said.

Mr. Chirac chaired a crisis meeting of ministers and defence, police and secret services chiefs earlier on Sunday.

"It is clear that experienced extremist organisers have been deliberately working to convert young people in some troubled suburbs," national police director Claude Guéant said in an interview with the newspaper Le Monde.

Iran, Iraq resume bid to better ties

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq resumed their talks on Monday toward normalising relations, still damaged seven years after the end of the 1980-1988 war, a Foreign Ministry official said here.

The Iraqi delegation, headed by senior Foreign Ministry official Saad Abdul Majid Al Faisal, arrived here late Sunday to discuss implementing the August 1988 ceasefire agreement between the two countries.

Mr. Faisal held talks early Monday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister on Arab World Affairs Hussein Sheikholslam and was expected to meet Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati later in the day, he said.

The talks will focus on prisoners of war (POWs) and missing-in action (MIAs), border issues and allowing pilgrimages to holy shrines in both countries, the official said.

The visit took place after recent calls by Iraqi leaders and official media to normalise ties with Iran to ease Baghdad's international isolation.

However, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has demanded the return of Iraqi POWs as well as the aircraft Iran sheltered during the 1991 Gulf war as a price for peace.

The POW issue has been a major obstacle to normalised ties, which were broken in 1987 but restored in September 1990, when Iraq faced a U.S.-led military build-up over its invasion of Kuwait.

Baghdad accuses Tehran of holding around 20,000 Iraqis but Iran denies this, claiming instead that 5,000 of its citizens are in Iraqi jails.

However, the two neighbours have discussed cooperation to account for the POWs and the remains of soldiers on each country's soil.

Iran and Iraq are also at odds over Baghdad's support for an armed Iranian opposition group, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, which has military bases in Iraq.

A planned trip to Baghdad by Mr. Velayati has been postponed three times.

IAEA: Clampdown on Iraq is a success

VIENNA (R) — The head of the United Nations atomic watchdog said on Monday inspectors were sifting thousands of Iraqi documents but so far there was no sign Baghdad's nuclear programme had survived a global clampdown.

Hans Blix, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told a board of governor's meeting that Iraq handed over the papers after the defection to Jordan last month of Hussein Kamel, son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein.

"Of the information recently provided by Iraq which has been reviewed and analysed to date nothing suggests that a change is warranted in the agency's conclusion that Iraq's nuclear weapons programme has been, for all practical purposes, destroyed, removed or rendered harmless," Mr. Blix said.

Iraq officials last month told IAEA officials General Kamel was the force behind a "short-cut" programme to build a nuclear device.

The project, launched at Tuwaitha in August 1990 shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, sought to extract

enriched uranium from reactor fuel and use it in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Allied air raids during the Gulf war damaged the facilities, however, and put an end to the scheme.

"As it turned out the extraction process was never begun. The damage caused by the coalition air raids on Tuwaitha and other relevant facilities made further work on the project impossible," Mr. Blix said.

Regular U.N. inspections would also have rendered the plan a non-starter, he said. Nevertheless Iraq's actions were a serious breach of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

"Had it been completed, this operation could have provided enough weapons-grade material for a nuclear device in a shorter time than would have been necessary under Iraq's covert uranium enrichment programme," Mr. Blix said.

Iraq had handed over some fifty documents relating to the Tuwaitha project. A meeting with Gen. Hussein, in Jordan had further corroborated Baghdad's version of events, Mr. Blix said.

Court of Justice. But if the mediation does not succeed, then we will accept the ruling of the International Court of Justice," he said.

"For Saudi Arabia to succeed in the mediation, both parties should be ready to accept the (Saudi) solution," he added.

Although Qatar has welcomed mediation by its larger neighbour Saudi Arabia, it had so far refused to drop its case at the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

Bahrain has refused to accept the jurisdiction of the court, which decided in January that it had jurisdiction and is expected to produce a verdict by the end of next year.

Sheikh Hamad said Qatar will accept any verdict by the court, even if it ruled that the dispute "Hawar Island belongs to Bahrain."

Qatari emir says father free to return

DUBAI (Agencies) — Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani has said that he hoped his father, who he deposed in a bloodless coup in June, would return to Qatar soon.

"We hope to see him (the deposed emir) in Qatar and we have big hope that God willing he will return in the near future," Sheikh Hamad said.

He was speaking in an interview with the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) television. The text of the interview was also published by the official Qatari News Agency.

Sheikh Hamad did not say when he expected his deposed father, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, to return home.

Sheikh Hamad replaced his father in a palace coup when Sheikh Khalifa was on a private visit to Switzerland in June. Sheikh Khalifa has since moved to the south of

France where he has a summer home.

Sheikh Hamad also said his country would receive Iraqi defector Hussein Kamel if he wanted to visit Qatar, but that the move would not be aimed to spite Iraq.

"Hussein Kamel has noit asked (to visit Qatar), but if he wants to, he is welcome, but not so as to spite the Iraqi government," Sheikh Hamad said.

Sheikh Hamad said the defection of General Kamel was "a disagreement among the ruling family as disagreements happen among ruling families in other countries. I don't see that it is an important issue."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in August sent a message to Sheikh Hamad on Arab developments and bilateral ties, the first announced contact between the two countries since the defection to Jordan earlier in the month by Gen. Kamel.

law and a number of other senior aides.

Qatar is the only Gulf Arab country to restore diplomatic ties with Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war in which Iraqi forces were driven out of Kuwait.

Qatar has also befriended Iran which has often had tense ties with some of the other Gulf Arab states.

Sheikh Hamad said Iran was a neighbour "and we have to live with each other in the Gulf."

He said Iran and the United Arab Emirates should resolve their territorial dispute over three strategic Gulf islands, but if that fails the dispute should be referred to international laws.

Sheikh Hamad said Qatar will drop its case at the International Court of Justice if Saudi Arabian mediation succeeds in ending its territorial dispute with Bahrain.

"If this (Saudi) mediation succeeds, we will withdraw the case at the International